Lincoln & Newspapers

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Abraham Lincoln and Newspapers

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NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER MEN OF ILLINOIS.

(Hon. E. A. Snively.)

Considering the part the newspapers and newspaper men have played in the history of Illinois, the entire time of this meeting could be taken up in recounting their victories, and then the half would not be told. For this occasion I have determined to make no reference to any person whose connection with the press began subsequent to 1860, leaving a history of the latter part of the last century to be taken up by some one at a future meeting of the society.

I have selected this period in the State's history, at this time, because with the beginning of the war of the rebellion, there was a complete change in the newspapers of the State. The campaign of 1860 was so closely allied to this change that it should be included in a history of the press of the State, which deals with it as it is today. As we know newspapers there were few of them in Illinois in the years of which I shall speak.

I propose to tell of the newspaper as it was in an era when no one had dreamed of a telephone, an ocean cable, an automobile, a woman's club, the daughters of the American revolution, a steam thresher, a selfbinder, appendicitis, heart failure, or any of the other many modern improvements that now engross so much of our attention.

The average citizen of today, who takes his evening paper with his supper knows little of the paper 60 and 70 years ago, and still less of the struggles of the earnest men who, under the very greatest difficulties, produced the early newspapers of the State.

The first newspaper published in Illinois was published at Kaskaskia and called the "Illinois Herald," the publisher being Mathew Duncan, the first issue dated Sept. 6th, 1814. It was a three column folio, and the most of its space was given up to the publication of the laws of Congress. The paper was subsequently sold to Daniel P. Cook and Robert Blackwell. Mr. Cook sold his interest to Elijah C. Berry, who subsequently became the purchaser of Mr. Blackwell's interest. When Cook and Blackwell purchased the paper they changed its name to the "Illinois Intelligencer." When the seat of government was removed to Vandalia, the "Intelligencer" or at least

a goodly portion of it, went along and the name of the paper was changed to the "Vandalia Intelligencer." Its name was again changed in 1823, to "Illinois Intelligencer," and it was an important factor in the fight against the calling of the constitutional convention in 1824. When the printing material of the "Intelligencer" was divided, that part which remained at Kaskaskia was utilized in the publication of a paper called the "Republican Advocate." Elias Kent Kane was the editor, and after his election to the United States senate, he sold the paper to Robert K. Fleming, who had been in charge of the mechanical department. Mr. Fleming moved the material to Vandalia and attempted to establish a paper there, but meeting with no encouragement, he moved the material to Edwardsville and established the "Illinois Corrector." In about one year the "Corrector" was suspended and the material taken again to Kaskaskia where a paper called the "Recorder" was published, and it continued from November 1828 until October 1833, when the material was removed to Belleville and the "St. Clair Gazette" established.

In July or August, 1818, Mr. Henry Eddy started from Pittsburg with a printing outfit, intending to go to St. Louis and there publish a paper. At Shawneetown the boat was stranded on a sandbar. The citizens of the town, learning Mr. Eddy's intentions, induced him to unload his printing material and the "Shawnee Chief" was given to the world on the 5th day of September, 1818, and Illinois was the proud possessor of two newspapers. After a few issues the name of the paper was changed to the "Illinois Emigrant."

On May 23rd, 1819, at Edwardsville, Hooper Warren began the publication of the "Edwardsville Spectator." Hooper Warren was one of the great men of his day. A most forceful writer, his bravery was a twin brother to his ability. He was opposed to slavery, and in the battle to make Illinois a slave State his editorial pen was one of the greatest weapons in the conflict. He sold the "Spectator" and then repurchased it, moving the material to Springfield, where he published the "Sangamon Spectator." In 1829, in company with two other gentlemen he went to Galena and established the "Galena Advertiser" and "Upper Mississippi Herald." In 1836 he removed to Chicago and established the "Commercial Advertiser," which was the third paper published in Chicago. Subsequently in 1850, he removed to Princeton and published the "Bureau Advocate," and afterwards again removed to Chicago where, in company with Z. Eastman he published the "Free West and Western Citizen."

The fifth paper published in the State was called the "Star of the West," and was published at Edwardsville. A man named Miller, accompanied by his son, owned a printing office in Pennsylvania, which they started with to the West looking for a location. Upon arriving at Edwardsville they were induced to unload the material and set up an office, and the paper was called the "Star of the West." It became an advocate of the pro-slavery constitution and was published from Sept. 14th, 1822, until July 28th, 1824, one week before the convention was defeated.

On the 25th day of April, 1829, the first issue of the "Pioneer," published at Rock Spring, made its appearance. It was printed by Thomas P. Green and his son, but it was edited by Rev. John M. Peck. No mention of the early history of Illinois is complete without bringing out prominently the life and history of Rev. John M. Peck, and paying tribute to his work and worth not only in aiding to defeat the pro-slavery constitution, but for the publication of his Gazetteer and his untiring zeal in behalf of the upbuilding of the new State. The "Pioneer" was a five column folio and was the first religious paper published in Illinois.

Some of the historians assert that the publication of the "Western News" began in 1826 or 1827. This is an error. The "Sangamon Spectator" of Jan. 26, 1828, contains the prospectus of the "Western News" and "Farmers' Weekly Intelligencer" The paper was to be published as soon as 300 subscribers were secured at $1.50 each. Evidently when this prospectus was printed there had been a suspension of some of the papers because it states there was then only four newspapers in the State.

Beginning with the early 30's and from that time on newspapers were established as the towns grew in population, and I will not follow up, in chronological order, the various papers which made their appearance.

The first daily established in Illinois was the "Gazette," published then, as now, at Galena. Its first issue was June 1, 1847, and nine days later the first issue of the "Chicago Daily Tribune" made its appearance.

Prior to the war, the editors of papers had a more extended personal acquaintance—or were known by a much greater proportionate number of people—than are the editors of today. The reason for this can be found in the smaller number of papers then as compared with the present time and the impersonality which now surrounds the papers, and especially the great metropolitan papers.

In the earlier days the establishment of a newspaper was not caused by the desire on the part of the business men to advance the business interests of their town and county, so much as the material interests of the politicians. The majority of newspapers in Illinois, or at least, so far as numbers go, a most respectable minority, were owned and controlled by the politicians of the county seat. While printing material was high-priced, the amount required to establish a political "organ" was small, and the advantages to the party, or a faction of a party, were considered very great. The early history of newspapers shows that many were established. They were published through one campaign and then suspended and the material hauled away to some other field. Thus a part of the old

"Intelligencer" printing office went from Kaskaskia to Vandalia, thence to Belleville and finally again landed at its starting point.

The newspaper then was not published to furnish news, but ideas. The small amount of news furnished, was intended merely to give force and effect to the editorial utterances The paper seldom contained more than one editorial in each issue, and in a majority of cases, the article was written by the local politician whose native sense and acquired education made him the most prominent figure in his party. The editorial was not written hurriedly and neither was it written in the style of a freshman or a sophomore. It was the result of the same study and research which characterizes the minister in the preparation of his sermon. The principles of government, the action of congress and the State legislature were discussed in a manner that showed the development of great study and profound thought. This one article was called the "leader," and the country paper of ante-war days would, under no consideration, go to press without its "leader." If the politicians had not written one and the editor could not, there was recourse to the scissors and one of the exchanges published farthest away. Seldom was the editorial page graced with more than one article. At times of great political excitement more than the usual amount of space was sometimes devoted to the discussion of political matters, but it required a presidential or gubernatorial election to bring this about. There was practically no local news. A matter which now would be served up in a column in any newspaper would then be disposed of in a half dozen lines. Mrs. Jones might give the most elaborate pink tea ever known in the county, but there would be no mention of it in the paper. The birth of a two-headed calf, the sale of a 900 pound hog or a visit of the member of congress might be recorded in a line or two, but it required some such event to produce a local item. The subscription list was small and often paid in cord wood, beeswax, potatoes, pork, cabbage or anything else the farm produced.

While all that I have said of the meagerness of the editorials in the press, it is no doubt true, that the greatest battle, in the newspapers, ever known in Illinois, was that waged for and against the adoption of the pro-slavery constitution. The papers were few in number and small in size. But their columns were filled with such brainy production as never before or since have been known. Among those opposed to the convention were Governor Coles, Morris Bickbeck, John M. Peck, Samuel D. Lockwood, Robert Blackwell, Daniel P. Cook, Henry Eddy, George Forquer and others. Among those who favored the convention were Elias Kent Kane, Jesse B Thomas, John McLean, Samuel McRoberts, Chief Justice Phillips, Judge Casey, and others of equal ability and prominence While but few of these men were actively engaged in the newspaper business, it is but just to them and the craft, that their names be considered when newspaper history is written, because they were all, more or less, financially interested in the publication of the papers of that day.

And each of them, either in the form of communications or in editorials written for the few papers then in existence, placed himself along with the men whose names adorned the editorial columns of the papers. That great contest, to the issue of which Illinois, undoubtedly, owes her position today, was a battle of intellects—a battle of brain against brain—a battle in which every superior mind in the young commonwealth took part, and through the columns of the press carried on a warfare never before equaled. What could not the State afford to pay for a file of the newspapers of that day? What an example and an inspiration they would be to the modern journalist whose only idea is to paint everything as yellow as possible.

When early newspaper men, in Illinois, are mentioned, the mind instinctively turns to Alton and the murder of Lovejoy. His life, his history and his tragic death are familiar to all. He was a type of the old-time editor, albeit, he was a man of far more ability than most of them, and with a courage that was never excelled. Others there were who believed all he believed, who taught, but in a different manner all that he taught. Many of these lived to see the fulfillment of his desires and to realize that the blood of that martyr was one of the seeds of the final abolition of slavery.

The destruction of another newspaper office resulted in a tragedy which marks almost, if not quite, as important an epoch in our history. Some parties in Nauvoo established a newspaper in opposition to mormonism. Only one issue was printed, when the city council, under the lead of Joseph Smith, declared the paper a nuisance and ordered the press and type thrown into the Mississippi river. This outrage on a free press together with other offenses against the laws, lead to the arrest of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, their incarceration in the Carthage jail and their subsequent death.

John Wentworth became editor of the Chicago Democrat in 1836 and continued in that capacity for more than a quarter of a century. He imparted to the columns of his paper much of his unique personality. It was he who gave to the State banks and their currency the name of "wild cat" and for many issues of his paper each column on its first page was ornamented with a picture of the ferocious animal. He was one of the three men who have represented Republican and Democratic constituencies in Congress from Illinois.

Joseph Medill assumed editorial control of the Chicago Tribune on the 18th of June, 1855. It is doubtful if any other paper wielded an equal influence in the earlier years of the Republican party. The State has had no more independent journalist than Mr. Medill. As a [illegible]ral thing he was always to be found in line with his party. [illegible]able example when he saw his duty to be cut loose from [illegible] was in 1869, when he ran as an independent dele- [illegible]tutional convention. After his election he was

offered the presidency of the convention by the Republicans, but refused. He had advocated non-partisanship in the selection of delegates and he adhered to his position.

It has been generally understood that Gov. John M. Palmer established the Carlinville Free Democrat, now the Carlinville Democrat. In his "memoirs," however, he says, he and his partner merely loaned the money to the gentlemen who established the paper. It is true, however, that it was understood that Governor Palmer was the power behind the throne in the early days of the paper's publication, and this fact gave the paper a wide influence. In 1878 Governor Palmer came into possession of the Illinois State Register, which he published for some time. Once when he was called upon to defend something which appeared in the Register, he said that while he owned it, he hired an editor and never wrote anything for it except on Saturday night, and then he only wrote checks.

Paul Selby, in 1848, assumed editorial charge of the Morgan Journal, and subsequently, for a time, edited the Quincy Whig. For 18 years he was editor of the Illinois State Journal. He was always firm in his beliefs, and expressed them in a calm, dignified manner. He was conscientious in his work, and in his long career enjoyed the respect of all.

Charles H. Lanphier entered the office of the Illinois State Register in 1836, when the paper was published at Vandalia. When the office was removed to Springfield, Mr. Lanphier went with it, and his connection with the paper continued until 1836, during 20 years of which time he was the editor. Mr. Lanphier was a close personal and political friend of Stephen A. Douglas, and it was he who managed the senatorial campaign in 1858.

Judge T. Lyle Dickey for a short time was the acknowledged editor of a Whig newspaper in Rushville, and it is no doubt true that for two or three years he and James W. Singleton were the real editors of the paper.

John W. Merritt assumed control of the Belleville Advocate in 1848, and three years later moved to Salem, where he published a paper called the Advocate until 1864, when, in company with his son, he purchased the Illinois State Register, which he conducted for a number of years.

Perhaps the one family most noted in the history of Illinois journalism during the period of which I write was the Brooks family. S S. Brooks began his editorial career at Edwardsville about 1832. From there he went in turn to Jacksonville, Alton, Springfield, Quincy, Lewiston, Alton, Quincy, Peoria, Quincy. Upon returning for his third residence in the latter city, he was elected clerk [illegible] circuit court, and was filling that position at the time of [illegible]

Austin, John P., Martin and Samuel S., all son[illegible] were noted for their connection with the press [illegible] Brooks began his newspaper career in Shawn[illegible] years of age. Subsequently he went to Mt. [illegible] he went to Quincy, and from that time up [illegible]

connected most of the time as editor and publisher of the Herald. He was a second edition of George D. Prentice, and no paper in the State was oftener quoted than the Herald under his management.

John P. Brooks began his editorial career in 1848, taking charge of the Canton Register. He afterwards entered the ministry, but at different times was engaged in newspaper work. In 1862 he was elected State superintendent of public instruction.

Martin and Samuel S. Brooks have both been connected with newspapers in the State, but that connection was subsequent to 1860.

In 1855 James M. Davidson began the publication of the Fulton Democrat, which he conducted until 1858. The year following he begun the publication of the Squatter Sovereign, and after changing its name to the Havana Post, sold it to John B. Wright in the summer of 1861. In 1865 he became the owner of the Carthage Republican, which he conducted until his death in 1894. He was recognized as one of the ablest editors ever connected with the press in central Illinois.

Mr. Davidson was no doubt the first country editor to resort to cartoons. He was his own artist. He drew his cartoons on a piece of paper, then transferred them to the bottom of some old patent medicine stereotype cut and with a sharp knife finished the work. They were equally as original and appropriate as any which now embellish the pages of the metropolitan papers and were very properly envied—and often borrowed—by his brother editors.

James Shoaff, for years connected with the press of our neighboring city of Decatur was known all over the State. He was a kind, genial man, a vigorous and forceful writer when he felt the occasion demanded it.

In 1848 John H. Bryant became the editor of the Bureau Advocate, and continued with the paper until 1863. Prior to Mr. Bryant's assuming charge of the paper each issue of the paper was edited by a committee of Whigs, a committee of Democrats and a committee of Liberty advocates, each party having the use of two columns in which to advocate its cause

John G. Nicolay began his literary career prior to the war, as editor of the Pike County Journal, a Republican paper published in Pike county.

I have named a few only, of the most prominent men connected with the press prior to 1860. In a general way, I have selected those whose business was journalism in the strict sense of the word, and leaving out of count those whose connection with the press was a mere temporary matter for the accomplishment of some particular purpose.

So far as I now recall there are only seven persons actively engaged in journalism today, in Illinois, who were so engaged prior to 1860. These are Charles Holt, Kankakee Gazette; William Osman, Ottawa Free-Trader; Ben. F. Shaw, Dixon Telegraph; W. T. Davidson, Fulton Democrat; S. Y. Thornton, Canton Ledger; George W.

Harper, Robinson Argus and H. M. Kimball, Macoupin County Argus. Chas. Holt began his career as an editor in 1848, but he did not come to Illinois until 1864, and since that time has been constantly in the business.

William Osman has been connected as editor and publisher with the Ottawa Free-Trader since its establishment in 1843.

W. T. Davidson became proprietor of the Fulton Democrat in 1858.

S. Y. Thornton became part owner of the Fulton County Ledger in 1856 and the following year became its sole owner and has continued as sole proprietor and editor since.

H. M. Kimball began his career as editor of the Carlinville Free Democrat in 1856.

George W. Harper began the publication of the Banner at Palestine in 1856. After serving in the army he settled in Robinson where he has since published a paper.

Benjamin F. Shaw has been connected with the Dixon Telegraph for almost half a century. He was a member of the Anti-Nebraska Editorial convention which met in Decatur on the 22nd of February, 1856, and was also a member of the first Republican State convention in this State, and he has steadily held to that faith since.

The old time editor was one of nature's most perfect composites. In the office he was type setter, job printer, pressman, bookkeeper, business manager and editor. He was prominent in every movement that was for the benefit of his town. He was secretary for his party conventions and committees. Sometimes he was a leader in the church and superintendent of the Sabbath school, and sometimes he did a great deal more than his share towards raising the government revenue.

He was posted upon all questions from the tariff to the proper time in the moon to plant potatoes. He could discuss foreign affairs or the creed of any religious sect. He may never have been possessed of $100 at one time, but he could discuss financial questions with the head of the bank of England. No man in the community received as little pay (unless it was the preacher) for the amount of good he accomplished. He went about his tasks with a willingness and a cheerfulness that evidenced his patience under circumstances and conditions that often were the most discouraging. He was firm in his convictions but accorded to others the same rights he claimed for himself. Like Charity, as described by St. Paul, the old time editor suffered long and was kind, he thought no evil; he was not puffed up; he vaunted not himself; he rejoiced not in iniquity but rejoiced in the truth; he hoped for all things and endured all things.

A few of the number were in no way creditable to the profession—they were coarse, vulgar and brutal in their editorials, but these soon fell by the wayside while the gentlemen in the sanctum remained as a living monument to the survival of the fittest.

The old time editor saved Illinois from the curse of slavery. He followed along, but more often lead, the march of improvement, and at all times was in the fore-front of all movements to aid in developing the State. As population increased and the time came when the newspaper was a necessity, and not a luxury, he was ready to meet the demands. Many of them suspended their papers and took up arms in defense of the flag, and on their return fitted themselves into the new environment as best they could, but found that in the general conduct of a newspaper, they had to serve a new apprenticeship.

Nearly all of the men who were prominent in the newspaper history of our State during the period which I have briefly and most imperfectly covered, have gone to their long home. On the foundations builded by them has been erected a press that is recognized everywhere as leading that of any State in the Union. At the meetings of the national editorial association, Illinois has for years occupied the seat of honor, and the hundreds of splendid newspapers today which reflect the industry, enterprise and intelligence of the communities in which they are published,owe their beginning to the tireless energy and unceasing toil of the pioneers of Illinois journalism.

Ill State Historical Library Publication # 9 , 1904

CHRONICLE OF A CENTURY OF AMERICAN JOURNALISM

BY HAROLD D. CAREW

THE EVENING POST. A Century of American Journalism. Boni & Liveright, New York.

This volume is not a mere office history of a great metropolitan journal, as its title might suggest, but a comprehensive chronicle of American journalism since the year 1800. A work such as Mr. Nevins has given us is the work of something more than that of a chronicler of events; for the history of the New York Evening Post during nearly a century and a quarter is so much history of the republic in politics and letters that a reading of this book gives one a complete survey from the time of Hamilton to the present day.

Of all the newspapers established as Federalist and Democratic organs when those two parties were struggling for supremacy at the beginning of the last century the Evening Post alone survives. The collapse of the party which had given the nation its first two Presidents was accounted the blackest hour the Federalists had yet known. Hamilton himself was held responsible by many of his adherents for the disaster which had overtaken the party's fortunes. He and President Adams had quarreled and the clashing of temperaments resulted in a division of the Federalist party into the two factions. To make matters worse, the irascible Adams charged that Hamilton was too Anglophile to be patriotic, and the latter, in turn, wrote a scathing and bitter denunciation of "The Public Conduct and Character of John Adams." Although the attack was designed for confidential circulation only, the contents of the document soon became known and the Democrats, their victory already assured, made the most of it. When it fell to the House of Representatives in March, 1801, to decide the tie between Burr and Jefferson, Hamilton patriotically threw his influence against Burr.

ESTABLISHED BY HAMILTON

The general overturn of the Federalists had been so complete, due largely to the alien and sedition law and the persecuting temper of the times, that Hamilton and his companions in defeat set out to retrieve the loss of their political prestige by establishing the Evening Post as an organ for attacking the triumphant Democrats. Its first editor was William Coleman, a young lawyer recently arrived in New York from Massachusetts, and under his guidance the new paper at once became the leader of the Federalist press and was nicknamed "Hamilton's journal." During the three years which intervened between the founding of the Post and the death of Hamilton at 46, Hamilton contributed much to its editorial expression. His tragic death detracted less from the controversial vigor of the sheet than was expected.

Editorial pages of 100 years ago bore little resemblance to those of today. Their "leaders" were for the most part controversial, and the acrimonious personal attacks between editors not infrequently resulted in a challenge to a duel. In his twenty-eight years as editor, during which time he was twice challenged to combat, Coleman was a force to be reckoned with in American politics. The rise of the Knickerbocker school of letters gave the Post a primacy in literature, and Irving, Cooper, Halleck, and Drake all contributed to its columns. A man of singular charm, Coleman had touched life at many angles, and was one of the first American editors to encourage the drama by giving generously of his space for dramatic criticism. It was he who reviewed the first performance of Rossini's "Barber of Seville" in 1825, the first Italian opera offered in America; and his critiques of the work of Macready, James K. Hackett, Junius Booth, Forrest, and Wallack may be said to constitute the first serious dramatic criticism of our literature. All New York turned out to see Senor Garcia in "The Barber of Seville." Would American taste take kindly to opera? "We predict," said Coleman, "that it will never hereafter dispense with it."

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

In 1825 a young poet-lawyer had gone down to New York from Great Barrington, Mass., brought thither by one of Coleman's most substantial supporters. He was William Cullen Bryant, whose first volume of verse had attracted wide attention; and, although he had had no intention of becoming a journalist, he was made junior editor of the Post in Coleman's declining years. "The time is peculiarly propitious," the mutual friend, Henry D. Sedgwick, whose own name is inseparably linked to fame, had advised. How propitious it was is attested by Bryant's record of fifty-two years in the Post's editorial chair, a record which closed with his death in 1878. Bryant's arrival in New York had attracted general notice. He had been heralded with the publication of "Thanatopsis" as America's leading poet, but, withal, with a wife and baby in Great Barrington to support, his position financially was a precarious and anxious one for several years. Relieved, as he told a friend, to "get out of his shabby profession as a lawyer," he augmented his meager salary as an editor by giving lessons in English to foreigners. His labors were devoted principally during those early years to book-reviewing and to editorials suggesting reform in city affairs. The frequency of the gossip on letters and art soon gave the newspaper a literary flavor and its reputation abroad began to grow. But Bryant's most effective impress upon his readers was made by his political and economic utterances. Upon the death of Coleman in 1829 he succeeded to the post of editor-in-chief and soon acquired fourth interest in the company, which yielded him an income of $3000 a year, a fabulous salary for those days.

ESPOUSES ABOLITION

Bryant early became an abolitionist, taking up the fight for free speech and using all the force of his trenchant pen against a compromise with slavery. He had no time for writing literary essays, so crowded was his work; and it is curious to note that as time went on he disrelished book reviewing more and more, never, it is said, quite trusting his judgment as a critic. Not until John Bigelow joined the staff in 1845 as an editorial contributor was Bryant relieved of much of the drudgery that kept him at his desk from early morning until late at night. Parke Godwin, who had joined a little earlier, however, had been the first to assist, especially by writing editorials on the politics of the day.

Bryant, like many leading Northerners, was opposed to war with Mexico and made quite as much noise thundering against it from the press as did Theodore Parker in his Boston pulpit. The old Whig party leaders sidestepped the issue as much as they could for fear of creating a schism, and the Democratic journals of the North were faced by a common embarrassment from 1840 to 1850, when a dominance over the Democratic party was being established by proslavery advocates. Bryant did not wish to abandon the party which had done so much, in his opinion, to curb the squandering of public money on internal improvements. In the campaign of 1840 he supported Van Buren for a second term, but four years later when Polk was nominated upon a slavery compromising platform, Bryant vigorously protested. But he stuck to his guns, hoping to improve the party from within, rather than bolt the candidate. Not until twelve years later was be given an opportunity to support a party which stood uncompromisingly for the things he stood for. In the years between the compromise of 1850 and the outbreak of the Civil War, the character of the Post may best be signalized by the names of its political correspondents—Thomas H. Benton, Gideon Welles and Salmon P. Chase—all names to conjure with in that day. With the birth of the Republican party Bryant became one of its most outstanding and militant supporters.

POST GREW STEADILY

Bigelow remained as assistant editor until 1860, having in 1848 become one of the owners, glad as was Bryant, to give up the law for something more suited to his temperament. He showed marked journalistic aptitude and from the business standpoint of the newspaper his coming did more to insure its growth by setting it soundly on its financial feet than any other factor in the years of its existence. In 1860 Bigelow traveled in Europe. While there he secured Sainte-Beuve, the eminent French critic, as the Paris correspondent for the Post. The great Frenchman, then at the height of his fame, had just been made commander of the Legion of Honor, and although his letters attracted little attention, the incident is worth recording as showing the growing character of a great American newspaper.

Bigelow's appointment as Consul at Paris in 1860 and his appointment as Minister to France by President Lincoln four years later was the beginning of a public service which lasted practically to the day of his death in 1911. Despite his loss from the editorial staff at a time when Bryant could ill afford to lose him, his long and frequent letters on international affairs gave the Post an ever-widening circle of readers.

What did the Evening Post think in 1850 of Webster's seventh of March speech? How in 1852 did it regard the dismal contest between Pierce and Winfield Scott? What estimate did it place upon "Uncle Tom's Cabin?" What in 1856 did it say of Brooks's assault upon Sumner and of the fierce Buchanan-Fremont contest; and what the next year of the Dred Scott decision? How did Bryant express himself upon the crimes and martyrdom of "Osawatomie" Brown? A reader of the files for those tense years, must, as the author says, have a sense of sitting at a drama, waiting the approach of a catastrophe which they perfectly foresaw, but which the players hoped to the last would be avoided.

STOOD BY LINCOLN

Lincoln found no more stanch defender than the Post throughout the dark days of civil conflict. The New York press had begun about this time a national ascendancy which it slowly lost after the war as the great West increased in population. The Post, one of the few to do so, emerged from the war with greatly enhanced prosperity. Among the notable New York editors, Greeley of the Tribune, Raymond of the Times and Bennett of the Herald, Bryant easily outshone them all. The younger generation, which was soon to startle the world by its brilliancy, had not yet come upon the scene.

The problems which pressed upon New York after the close of the war were the problems that came as an aftermath of fighting. Tammany Hall, under the leadership of Tweed began an orgy of greed and graft which continued until the "boss" himself was landed behind the bars. The Post stalwartly fought him tooth and nail and did not let up until his conviction and sentence to the penitentiary had been pronounced. This was one of the newspaper's many notable activities in behalf of decent government.

In 1881 the ownership of the Post changed hands and Carl Schurz, former Congressman, orator and writer, was installed as editor. Then came E. L. Godkin, known as the "fighting editor," and Horace White, as associates. The three were a triumvirate of American journalism, whose fame will outlive their century.

So complete is Mr. Nevins's book in historical perspective, so painstakingly and thoroughly presented, so keenly balanced in historical proportion, so gripping and interesting, that a reviewer cannot hope to do justice to it within this space. It is easily the best book of its kind ever published; not so much the history of a great newspaper, as we have said, but the chronicle of a century of American journalism in which the New York Evening Post has played an honorable role.

Indiana Newspapers 1829-1860

By James Hannan Butler, A.M., Wisconsin

The Newspaper and the Frontier

Sept 1926

In order to explain the progress of the establishment of newspapers in Indiana, mention should first be made of the size of the towns in which they were published and the constantly increasing population of the state. The setting for a story of newspapers in the commonwealth would be incomplete without this.

In the westward advance of the American frontier following the Revolutionary war, Southern Indiana was reached soon after settlements were made in Ohio. The early settlements were along the rivers. Along the Ohio river were the promising towns of Lawrenceburg, Vevay, Madison, Jeffersonville, New Albany and Evansville. On the Whitewater river were Connersville and Brookville. On the Wabash was old Vincennes, which had been settled by the French much earlier, and Terre Haute. Somewhat later Lafayette and Logansport were founded on the upper Wabash river. Comparatively early settlements, not on important rivers were Richmond, Corydon, the first capital of Indiana, located twenty miles from the Ohio river in Harrison county; and Indianapolis, the centrally located capital of the future.

The progress of a frontier line of eighteen inhabitants to the square mile, across the state of Indiana from 1830 to 1860 tells an interesting story.[1]

By the year 1830 it had pushed into the state in two places. The lower extension was the larger of the two. It entered the state of Indiana near Cincinnati, Ohio, ran parallel to the Ohio river as far as Washington county, where it turned sharply north, then west, then north, and west again to the western edge of Lawrence county. Here is dropped almost directly

[1] All information concerning this frontier line was gained from: *Statistical Atlas of the United States based on the results of the Ninth Census of 1870.*

south to the Ohio river. Territory inside this line of eighteen to the square mile and which was therefore more thickly populated included the counties of Ohio, Switzerland, Jefferson, Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Washington, Orange, and parts of Scott, Lawrence, and Crawford. The upper section encompassed by this frontier line included the counties of Wayne, Fayette, Union, and Franklin, in rectangular form with Rush county making an almost square extension on the west side.

In the next ten years the influx of population was rapid. By 1840 the line, with the exceptions noted below, had reached approximately the northern boundaries of the following counties: Randolph, Delaware, Madison, Tipton,[2] Clinton, Carroll, Tippecanoe, Fountain and Vermillion. Two sections south of this line were not included: one of these included the hilly counties of Jackson and Bartholomew and the other was a larger triangular strip which had the three counties of Perry, Spencer, and Warrick, as a base and extended in a northward direction with the northern boundary of Clay county forming a blunt apex.

By 1850 the line had advanced across the state. There were still three sctions of the state, however, where the population had not reached an average of eighteen to the square mile. One part included the rather barren counties of Martin and Dubois in the southwestern part of the state. Another included the counties of Adams, Wells, Blackford, Huntington, Whiteley and Noble. The third included these counties: Lake, Porter, Starke, parts of Marshall, Fulton and White; Benton, Warren, Newton, Jasper, and Pulaski.

In 1860 all territory in the state had received enough inhabitants to make its average eighteen or more to the square mile except an irregular strip in the northwestern part of the state. This strip contained practically all of the counties of Benton, Jasper, Newton, White, Pulaski, Starke, and part of Lake county.

While this expansion was taking place the newspapers were keeping pace. When settlements were sparsely populated and far apart newspapers were not numerous. When the towns grew in size two and in some cases three or more papers were supported.

[2] The line cut across the middle part of Tipton county.

Energetic editors appeared soon after a community reached any appreciable size. For this reason, a newspaper map showing counties having a newspaper or having had one, at a given date is similar to a map showing what counties the frontier line overran at that date. In a few instances newspapers were established in thriving towns some time before the frontier line of eighteen to the square mile reached the county. Examples of this are the settlements at New Harmony, Vincennes, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Lafayette, and Logansport, all of which had weekly papers before 1830, at a time when the frontier line was far to the south and east. This situation might have been expected because a newspaper depended chiefly on a town for its support and at least not upon a whole county. Then, many of the towns were fairly large long before the county in which they were situated became thickly populated.

Several newspapers had been established in Kentucky and Ohio before one made its appearance in Indiana.

The honor of printing the first newspaper in Indiana belongs beyond a doubt to Elihu Stout, who on July 4, 1804, put out the first issue of the *Indiana Gazette* at Vincennes.[5] About a year and a half later the plant was destroyed by fire. On July 4, 1807, Editor Stout began issuing the *Western Sun and General Advertiser,* after having returned to Frankfort, Kentucky, to get the type and press.[6]

The next paper to be published in Indiana, was the *Western Eagle,* which was founded at Madison in 1813, by Seth M. Leavenworth and William Hendricks, who had brought their press with them from Cincinnati. After a short sojourn the *Eagle* was moved to Lexington, Indiana, and the *Indiana Republican* took its place in Madison. In 1815 John Scott, a roving printer, founded the *Enquirer and Indiana Telegraph* at Brookville and about the same time an Ohio printer, William C. Keen, one of the joint founders of Vevay, established the *Indiana Register* at that place.[7]

Between the date of the admission of Indiana into the Union in December, 1816, and the inauguration of Andrew

[5] *History of Knox and Davies Counties, Indiana.*

[6] Logan Esarey, "Early Indiana Newspapers", in Indianapolis *News,* Feb. 1, 1913.

[7] Logan Esarey, *History of Indiana,* Vol. II, p. 1101.

Jackson in March, 1829, one or more papers was established at the following towns: Salem, Vevay, Terre Haute, Greencastle, Brookville, New Albany, Indianapolis, Richmond, and Centerville.[8]

The establishment of a newspaper in a town as well as its success thereafter depended upon the revenue that might be derived from two sources: job printing and circulation to subscribers. Practically all of the early editors made pleas for job printing. A notice printed by the *Paladium* at Lawrenceburg is typical of the kind of job work they offered to do. The notice read as follows:

> Blank Deeds, Mortgages, Summonses, Bills of Lading, and most other kinds for sale at this office.[9]

The fact that the early editor depended upon both circulation and job printing to earn a living makes it difficult to say what circulation was necessary to sustain a paper. In many cases an editor may have cast his lot with a town because of the promise of job work to be done. County seat towns often lured editors and held them because of the additional amount of job work and the printing of the official notices and reports of the various county officials who did business there.

Statements giving the net paid circulation were seldom given by editors before the Civil War. Occasionally if one was having unusual success he would tell how his list of subscribers was growing. On July 29, 1840, *The La Porte County Whig and Porter, Lake and Marshall Counties Advertisers,*[10] in publishing a notice that its furniture and fixtures were for sale said they had "cost $1,500 in New York about three years ago" and said "the subscription list is about five hundred and might easily be increased to double that number."[11] The *Madison Daily Courier*, on May 5, 1849, said:

> When we issued our first number we had not even one subscriber; now before the first week has ended, we have over four hundred.

[8] Logan Esarey, *History of Indiana,* Vol II, pp. 1102-1107; histories of Indiana counties which include those towns.

[9] *Indiana Palladium,* Mar. 21, 1835, Lawrenceburgh.

[10] This name was later shortened to *La Porte Whig* for obvious reasons.

[11] Jasper Packard, *History of La Porte County, Indiana, and its Townships, Towns and Cities.*

In speaking on the suspension of the Portland *Journal* in the winter of 1856-1857 one publisher said, "its circulation at that time was about three hundred copies."[12] It is said that for the *Spy* at Nashville in 1854, the first newspaper in Brown County, "a subscription list of about three hundred was secured."[13] Immediately after the *Noble County Journal* was started in 1859, "a circulation of about five hundred was secured but was afterward about doubled."[14] One Indiana historian has summarized the circulation of the town and city papers of Indiana as follows:

> Few of the papers of Indiana before the war had a circulation of 1,000. The ordinary county seat paper of the forties had from 200 to 500 subscribers. The latter number included those that circulated outside the county. The Madison, New Albany, Terre Haute, Lafayette, South Bend, Fort Wayne, and perhaps a few other papers had from 500 to 700 subscribers. The weekly *Sentinel* and *Journal* had over 1,000 but the daily editions were less than 500.[15]

The valuation of newspaper and printing establishments varied greatly. According to the reports of the Sixth Census[16] sixty-five printing offices in Indiana in 1840 were valued at $58,505, or an average of approximately $900 per plant. In sixty-nine printing offices, two hundred and eleven men were employed. Counties reporting the largest number of men engaged in printing, binding, and publishing were Marion, with eighteen; Floyd, with sixteen; Wayne, with fourteen; Vigo, with twelve; and Jefferson, La Porte and Tippecanoe with eleven. All other counties had less than ten men and as few as one engaged in the industry. This report gives the most complete information available on the amount of capital which the editor had invested in his plant.[17] Earlier, of course, the plants were smaller, the average number of men

[12] *Biographical and Historical Record of Jay and Blackford Counties, Indiana*, 212.

[13] *Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, Indiana, Historical and Biographical*, 696.

[14] *Counties of La Grange and Noble, Indiana, Historical and Biographical*, 74.

[15] Logan Esarey, "History of the Press in Indiana", in *Indianapolis Star*, Sept. 9, 1915.

[16] *Compendium of the Enumeration of Inhabitants of the United States. . . . Sixth Census*, 292.

[17] Even this report lists printing offices, newspaper plants, and binderies without discrimination.

employed less, and the amount of capital invested less. Later when steam power was introduced and telegraph service furnished, the cost of both equipment and upkeep was greater.

What information is available concerning the number of newspapers in Indiana shows a steady increase after 1835. In 1833 a *Gazeteer* was published by Douglass and Maguire of the *Indiana Journal* at Indianapolis, which contained a table of Indiana newspapers, showing by whom they were published and at what place.[18] This book lists a total of twenty-nine papers in the state in the year 1833. In the year 1835 the *American Almanac* listed the name and place of publication of thirty-one newspapers and stated that, "In addition to the above, seven other papers are printed in the state making in all thirty-eight."[19] In the Sixth Census (1840) reports, Indiana is credited with sixty-nine weeklies and four semi-weeklies and tri-weeklies, a total of seventy-three.[20] According to the census reports of 1850 there were eighty-four political papers in the state besides those classed as literary, miscellaneous, religious and scientific.[21] In the next decade there was a considerable increase in the number of publications. In 1860 there were one hundred and seventy-two political papers of which thirteen were issued daily, five bi-weekly, and one hundred fifty-four weekly.[22] This large increase in the number of political papers has been attributed to the "extraordinary political agitation" of the decade.[23]

These statistics, however, give only the bare facts and although each decade showed an increase in the number of papers over the preceding one, such progress was not made without heroic efforts on the part of some editors to keep their papers alive.

Besides the hardships which the pioneer editors had to endure, some other features of the newspaper industry in the

[18] John Douglass and Douglas Maguire, *The Indiana Gazeteer or Topographical Dictionary*, 200.

[19] *The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge for the year* 1836, 253.

[20] *Compendium of the Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States. . . .* Sixth Census, 292.

[21] J. D. B. De Bow. *The Seventh Census of the United States*, 1850, Table XLIX, p. LXV.

[22] *Statistics of the United States Census in* 1860, Eighth Census, 321.

[23] *Ibid.* 320.

state were: the heavy mortality of the papers; the bitter rivalry of the editors; the rates they charged for advertising and subscriptions; and the general contents of the papers. These topics will be discussed in separate sections.

Hardships of the Early Editors

The pioneer editor in Indiana labored under difficulties that seem almost beyond belief in this day of rapid transportation, quick methods of communication, and improved machinery of all kinds. Yet he was not alone in suffering hardships, for the merchant, the teacher, the farmer and the preacher were laboring under the same harsh conditions of pioneer life.

No more vivid picture of pioneer journalism can be given, however, than the story of some of the adversities with which the early editor had to contend.

One of the curses of early journalism in Indiana was a shortage of paper at publishing time. Speculation as to why the pioneer editor was so often caught in this predicament leads to three possible reasons. In the first place many of them barely eked out an existence from week to week and probably seldom had enough "ready cash" to buy an appreciable supply in advance. Then, the uncertainties of their organs as business ventures made the laying in of a large supply of paper inadvisable. When both advertisers and printers were slow in settling their accounts, as will be shown below, it was only natural that the editors were careful about additional investments. A third and most likely cause for frequent apologies about a lack of paper, rested in the uncertainties and difficulties of transportation. This was especially true of transportation in the winter and spring months when the streams were frozen or swollen and the roads impassable.

The problems of Editor Stout at Vincennes may be cited as typical examples of what many editor had to contend with until the middle thirties. In the spring of 1829 he gave this notice to his readers:

> Want of paper compels me to furnish my readers with but half a sheet. I expect a supply before another publication day.[1]

[1] *Western Sun,* May 9, 1829.

The delay apparently was longer than he had at first anticipated, however, and he was soon forced to make another apology. His appeal to his readers for patience was worded as follows:

> My supply of paper has not yet arrived. I shall endeavor to make such arrangements as will prevent a similar misfortune for I do not look upon the fact of being out of paper as a fault, having taken the needful and usual steps to procure it, but as a misfortune.[2]

As a result of this shortage the two succeeding issues, May 23 and May 30, 1829, were about three-fifths their regular size. Instead of the usual four columns, there were only three. The usual four pages were printed.

A lack of paper of the proper size bothered this editor as late as 1834. He was compelled to reduce the *Sun* to a five-column sheet for the issues of October 4, October 11, and October 18, 1834. As late as the issue of July 5, of that year, he had used paper of this size. But after this day he had put out a six column paper. His announcement to his readers was worded as follows:

> I am compelled to present the *Sun* to its numerous patrons today on a diminished sheet. Paper of the proper size has been expected for several days but has not yet arrived. I shall endeavor to prevent a similar mishap again happening.[3]

About the same time the editor of the *Indiana Republican* at Madison was having similar troubles and for one issue was obliged to put out a paper of five columns in place of the customary six columns. The editor's statement to his patrons is self explanatory. He said:

> We are under the necessity of apologizing to our patrons this week on account of the size of our paper. We sent to Louisville for *Imperial* paper, but received superroyal, plenty of which we could have had at home; but we can assure our readers that as soon as we have an opportunity of sending to Cincinnati or Louisville again, our paper shall resume its former size.[4]

Another pioneer in the newspaper field, John Scott at Logansport, suffered greatly on account of his remoteness from

[2] *Ibid.*, May 16, 1829.
[3] *Western Sun*, October 4, 1834.
[4] *Indiana Republican*, October 7, 1830. Madison.

a paper mill. His hardships have been summarized for the first two years as follows:

> It took Editor Scott about two years to complete the first volume, 52 numbers, of the *Pottawatomie and Miami Times*, of Logansport, 1829-31, due to the irregularity of the boats on the Wabash.[5]

Conditions did not seem to improve for this Wabash valley editor because in 1833 he had numerous complaints to make. He did not put out an issue from December 29, 1832, until February 14, 1833, giving two reasons for the suspension as follows:

> It is due to our readers to state that the failure in the publication of this paper, for some weeks past, was owing to the absence of the Editor, and a disappointment in not receiving a supply of paper as soon as was expected.[6]

A short time later this notice appeared:

> The person employed to bring us paper failed to do so, consequently we were unable to publish last week and are compelled to issue but half a sheet this week.[7]

Another apology was forthcoming two months later when he allowed four weeks to elapse between No. 52 of Vol. I and No. 1 of Vol. II.[8]

Even as late as 1847, the energetic Henry Ward Beecher, who edited a monthly agricultural journal at Indianapolis during the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, was caught without paper. He said the delay was on account of "not getting paper according to contract"[9] and said further:

> We have now made such arrangements as will in the future avoid such vexatious occurrences. This delay will throw the next number a little behind its proper time, after which its issue will be regular.[10]

Two instances may be cited of earnest, if eccentric and unusual, attempts to put out pioneer papers. Some allowance can be made because in each case the paper was the first in the community. The accounts that follow are self explanatory.

[5] Logan Esarey, "History of the Press in Indiana," in the *Indianapolis Star*, Sept. 12, 1915.

[6] *Cass County Times*, Feb. 14, 1833, Logansport.

[7] *Ibid.*, March 21, 1833.

[8] See *Ibid.*, May 9, 1833.

[9] *Western Farmer and Gardener*, April, 1847, Indianapolis

[10] *Ibid.*, April, 1847.

The first paper in Rushville, The *Dog-Fennel Gazette* (!), published by one Wickham, in 1832, seems, from the unique name bestowed upon it, to have been consciously grotesque. What the eccentric father of it used as a bed for his press we are not told, but it is affirmed that for his pressing power he utilized a heavy pole, one end of which was attached to a tree. Placing the form under the pole near the tree, so as to get a good leverage, he would squeeze off his impressions. The sheets were distributed printed on one side, and his patrons, after reading, would return the paper to be printed on the other side for another issue.[11]

The other account follows:

The first newspaper published in Morgan County was established at Martinsville, early in the forties, by James Richards. The sheet was a small folio, was printed often upon paper obtained from the stores in town, and upon a small wooden press.[12]

In view of the numerous suspensions and the number of issues missed by these early Indiana editors it is not surprising that the eastern metropolitan journals, with their better facilities and equipment, looked on from a distance and criticized. Typical of what many of them must have thought is the comment of the editor of the *Boston Morning Post,* whose article was printed in an Indiana paper as an exchange. The eastern man said:

The Western Editors must have very good natured subscribers, for they make nothing of missing a publication day if it is not perfectly convenient to get out a paper. If they have a large amount of job work on hand they let the paper go for a fortnight, if the editor's cow gets lost in the woods he leaves his paper and hunts her up, and his subscribers don't grumble a word at his independence. The plan works better than it would here—for even in this goodly city, an omission like that and for such a reason, would cost an editor half his subscription list.[13]

Next to the inability to secure paper for printing probably the most serious blow to the pioneer editor was the failure to receive mail. Before the arrival of the telegraph the very existence of the newspaper depended upon the mails. Local news was not considered important in the thirties and forties but an

[11] George S. Cottman, "The Early Newspaper of Indiana", in *Indiana Magazine of History,* II (1906), p. 115. Cottman does not cite any authority for this statement.

[12] *Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, Indiana. Historical and Biographical,* 33-34.

[13] *The Boston Morning Post* quoted in the *Indiana Palladium,* July 18, 1835. Lawrenceburgh.

editor considered himself unfortunate indeed if he could report nothing of interest concerning the state and national governments. Along with the news from Washington, came the eastern papers, another invaluable source of supply for the small town editor. From these eastern papers was clipped the report of happenings in the larger cities and the latest news from Europe and other parts of the world. Frank notices like the following were common until good roads were built and faster, surer, transportation insured:

> The last mail papers are particularly barren of news of any importance.[14]

A Logansport editor made this honest admission:

> In consequence of a failure of the mail, we have not been favored with our regular exchange papers, consequently we have nothing of any late importance from Washington.[15]

The same editor had previously decided to change the publication date of his organ from Saturday to Thursday, for, he said, "it will suit the arrival and departure of the mails."[16] A Lawrenceburgh editor a few months later showed his dependence on the mails by two short paragraphs. The first read:

> No letters or papers by the last Indianapolis mail. We understand, however, by travellers, that the bank bill is pending.[17]

The other continued:

> Owing to the swollen state of the streams, we have not received our usual supply of Eastern news the present week.[18]

The postmaster's notice of the arrival and departure of mails to and from the Indianapolis office in 1829 shows how infrequently the capital city received deliveries. This notice, which appeared in the *Indiana Journal* for January 3, 1829, and subsequent issues, showed one arrival from and one departure every week to each of the following towns: Madison, Princeton, Terre Haute and Crawfordsville, Winchester, Brookville and Lawrenceburgh, Indiana, besides an Eastern

[14] *Western Sun,* October 11, 1834.
[15] *Cass County Times,* March 7, 1833.
[16] *Ibid.,* February 14, 1833.
[17] *Indiana Palladium,* January 18, 1834.
[18] *Ibid.,* January 18, 1834.

mail via Dayton, Ohio, and one to Elizabethtown, Ky., via Bedford, Indiana. Ohio and Wabash river towns received some additional news, especially from New Orleans, but other inland towns did not even have the mail service that supplied Indianapolis.

Along with a shortage of paper and the slowness and irregularity of the mails the pioneer editor had to contend with labor troubles. Three and four line notices begging for apprentices and journeymen printers were common in the files of the newspapers during the thirties. The *Indiana Democrat,* at Indianapolis, on October 16, 1830, appealed for

> One or two boys from 15 to 17 years of age, who could read and write

and said that "Boys from the country would be preferred." The *Indiana Republican,* at Madison, had on September 23, 1830, made a similar request. On February 7, 1829, the editor of the *Western Sun* in a notice "To Journeymen Printers" promised that

> An industrious good workman willing to engage for moderate wages may have a permanent situation at the *Western Sun* office by making speedy application.

In 1831 the same thing had to be done over again. The wording of this latter notice leads one to the conclusion that the editor may have previously had trouble with an assistant of alcoholic habits. The notice read:

> A good workman of sober and industrious habits will meet with constant employment by applying at the *Western Sun* office.

The appeal was printed on August 20, 1831, and for five consecutive weeks thereafter.

By 1837 the whole system of hiring apprentices in Indiana had reached such a condition of affairs that it was taken up by an editorial convention held in Indianapolis in that year. Three of the resolutions passed by that body were worded in such a manner as to need no further explanation. They are in part as follows:

> *Resolved,* That as the practice on the part of apprentices of going from office to office, without passing through a regular course of apprenticeship and instruction is calculated to work not only injustice and in-

jury to the employer but also to throw upon the community a class of incompetent and ignorant workmen, therefore, it should be regarded as a violation of editorial duty for one editor or publisher to employ apprentices whether in or otherwise from the office of another without the approbation of the former.

Resolved, That any editor or publisher who shall seduce or entice either apprentice or journeyman from the employ of another, or shall employ such as have left the service of their employer in violation of good faith, knowing the facts of the case shall be held guilty of a breach of professional duty and honor . . .

Resolved, That it be recommended to the editors and publishers of Indiana to employ no habitually intemperate or otherwise notoriously immoral workmen.[19]

Whether or not the fact that the editors of the state went on record as being opposed to such practices enumerated above led to their discontinuance is not known.

But the heart of the editor was too stout to break down on account of these physical obstacles. One thing that urged him on to accomplish more things was the competition and the challenges of other editors.

The Heavy Mortality in Pioneer Journalism

One of the striking features of the history of journalism in Indiana from 1829 to 1850 is the exceedingly high death rate of the newspapers. So far as is known no estimate has been made of the ratio of failures to the number of enterprises launched yet it must be very high when compared with other business establishments. Two separate lines of investigation lead to this conclusion: one is the use of county histories and the other is the examination of the existing files of the papers of the state.

Almost all of the county histories give some space to the treatment of early newspapers and the work of the pioner editors. In nearly every history the story is the same, that after a short run the paper was obliged to suspend publication. A history of Jackson county written in 1886 has the following to say about the journals of that county:

[19] *Logansport Canal Telegraph,* June 24, 1837.

Not a few of the number have met with sudden deaths, and all of them have experienced the fiery trials and vicissitudes which have ever characterized the profession.[1]

A history of Kosciusko county records the demise of the *Kosciusko Republican* in these words:

Rogers conducted the paper by issuing two or three weeks in succession, getting out a half sheet now and then, and often missing a week until . . . the suspension of the *Republican* altogether.[2]

Another writer summarized his views of the pioneer papers in this humorous but brief manner:

The early history of newspaper enterprises in small towns is usually a record of lives as brief as those allotted to the angels of Rabbi Jehosha:

Whose only office is to cry
Hosanna once, and then to die.[3]

One editor, after a run of a little more than a year, said when he was forced to suspend:

Our brightest hopes have been canceled by a full realization of everything hoped for.[4]

The statements made in the first issue of many an early newspaper leads one to the conclusion that the editor expected his paper to be an exception to the general rule and become a financial success. The trials of the *Tri-Weekly New Albany Democrat* is a case in point. On July 1, 1847, the first issue was published. The editor said his chances for success were good and that he had high hopes of being able to put out a good, successful, paper. His hopes were too high, however, for on November 25, 1847, after publishing five months, he gave up the enterprise. Fortunately he could fall back on the *Weekly Democrat* and make a living.

Another indication that many of the Indiana papers in the 1830's at least, were not proving financially successful may be seen in the frequent changes in partnership. If an editor was making much money there would be no incentive for him either to sell out or to take a partner into the business with whom he would have to share profits. A good example of how

[1] *History of Jackson County,* Indiana, 515.
[2] *Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County, Indiana,* 666-667.
[3] *History of Pike and Dubois Counties, Indiana,* 349.
[4] *Counties of White and Pulaski, Indiana, Historical and Biographical* (Chicago, 1883), 100.

frequent some of these changes really were, may be seen by examining the files of the *Cass County Times* of Logansport from November, 1831, to December, 1833. From November 9, 1831, to February 9, 1832, inclusive, John Scott was the sole editor; from August 18, 1832, through November 17, 1832, John Scott and Joseph Hall were in charge; from August 18, 1832, through November 17, 1832, John Scott had a joint editorship with P. J. Van Derveer; from November 24, 1832, through May 30, 1833, John Scott was sole editor again; there was no issue between May 30 and July 11, 1833; from July 11, 1833, through October 10 of the same year the editors were W. J. Burns and J. B. Scott (not John Scott) and from October 17, 1833, through December 19, 1833, W. J. Burns was the sole editor. Thus it may be seen that there were five men at the helm some time or another during the twenty-five months in question.

Beginning in September, 1833, and continuing for two years, changes in the management of the *Indiana Palladium* at Lawrenceburgh are very similar to those in the Logansport paper. The editors of the *Indiana Palladium* for the period were as follows: From September 7, 1833, till July 12, 1834, D. V. Culley; from July 19, 1834, till July 25, 1835, D. V. Culley and V. M. Cole; from August 1, 1835, till October 17, 1835, V. M. Cole and E. Curtis; from October 24, 1835, till November 28, 1835, and beginning December 5, 1835, Milton Gregg and William A. Cameron.

The editors of Indiana newspapers realized in the middle 1830's, that journalism in general was in an unhealthful condition. The editor of the *Wabash Courier*, at Terre Haute in particular was alive to the situation. His views were being reprinted by various papers over the state. The *Sun* at Vincennes credited him with this statement:

> Within in a month no less than three newspapers printed in Indiana have been discontinued—"yielded up the ghost"—though not without a struggle. How many more will follow ere long, the sickly, pale and battered exterior of some received at this office gives awful forebodings . . . the career of some has been so short, that, ere we could greet them a more unpleasant duty was imposed.[5]

[5] *Wabash Courier,* Terre Haute, quoted in *Western Sun,* January 31, 1835.

The editor of the *Courier* thought that an editorial convention might be able to solve the problem. This idea was seconded by the proprietor of the *Indiana Palladium* who favored the proposition of holding a convention of editors in Indianapolis in the spring of 1835 to devise "some proper panacea for the debilitated condition of the press in general."[6] The editorial convention was held early in May, 1835, but did not furnish the panacea as hoped for. The *Palladium* editor said to his patrons:

> We regret to say that the convention was not so generally attended as it *might* or *ought* to have been,[7]

and inferred that it accomplished little. The problems must have been too big to have been solved by a two or three-day editorial convention.

The frequent suspensions of Indiana papers in the antebellum period must have been the result of a number of things. In the first place many of the editors were not good managers. They knew how to manage the literary department of the paper but were unable to take care of the finances. As a result unpaid subscriptions were numerous as were also unpaid advertisements. In 1839, 1846 and even in the 1850's the editors were still pleading with debtors to pay up.

Some of these evils might be summarized as follows: Subscribers were constantly changing their addresses without giving notice to the editors; in the excitement of election times men would order a paper and then would receive it for three or four years without settling; candidates would have their names announced before conventions or elections and many of them, especially the defeated ones, would neglect to pay their bills.[8]

Another reason for frequent suspensions lay in the fact that many editors overestimated their chances of success. Optimism was abundant in the personality of the pioneer editor. In some instances one editor would follow another into a community which had been unable to support a paper. But the incoming editor was often undaunted by the fact that one or more of the preceding printers had failed because of a

[6] *Indiana Palladium*, Jan. 24, 1835. Lawrenceburgh.

[7] *Ibid.*, Jan. 24, 1835.

[8] Logan Esarey, "History of the Press in Indiana", in *Indianapolis Star*, May 2, 1915.

lack of patronage, and expected his own personality and ability to make for complete success.

In the periods of economic depression or "hard times" as they were called, the troubles of the editors were greater than ever and the mortality rate higher. In times of panic and when money conditions tightened, the whole community was hard hit and new subscribers were fewer in number and old subscribers were hard to collect from.

The percentage of newspaper suspensions continued high through the 1840's and 1850's and up to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Personal and Partisan Rivalry of the Editors

One of the features of early journalism in Indiana was the bitterness with which rival editors attacked each other. Battles of words were frequent and the controversies often were long and drawn out. These disputes arose over various subjects such as the size and quality of their papers, statements and misstatements of facts, the appropriation of articles without giving proper credit to the author and most frequently, perhaps, over partisan politics. These squabbles were not confined to papers of any particular class or location but were entered into with apparent relish by city and town editors and by proprietors of daily, weekly, and monthly journals. Naturally some editors were loath to enter personal controversies while others reveled in word battles. A few examples will show how extensive the practice was in Indiana and that it continued from the beginning of the Jackson period until the Civil War at least.

The editor of an Indianapolis paper, under the caption "The Creature's at his Dirty Work Again", carried the following attack upon a downstate editor:

> We can not take room to say anything to the editor of the *Political Clarion* at Connersville, but we will say to his readers that if they will read the following sentence from that paper of the 5th inst. we will again prove to them that no credit should be given to anything which may be said by the silly *cock-a-doodle* who edits that sheet at the bidding of a would be Congressman. . . . Now to prove that this soft shelled sophomore is entirely ignorant of what transpires within the limits of

the state in which he lives, or that he entirely disregards *truth* in any manner we need only to refer to the records. . . .[1]

About a year later the same paper carried an attack upon another paper, this time the Greensburg *Observer*, in the following vein:

The abuse of low-bred malevolence tends only to make its author more infamous; and were it not that the poor *cratur* who hawes over his "beads" through the mud battery of the Greensburgh "Observer" has already sunk to the bottom of the pit of licentiousness and personal degradation we would reply to his wanton and weak remarks relative to our course on the rejection of the nomination of Mr. Van Buren. We despise the heartless slanderer, and therefore let Dowling drivel at us without notice, further than to pity his impotent attempts to bring himself into notice by belieing us. . . . However we promise him that if he will frame his remarks in such a manner as to allow us legal redress for his libels and assure us we can recover costs of prosecution against him, if he fails to sustain himself on a plea of justification for his slanders, by showing a sufficient amount of available property out of which to make costs.[2]

A few weeks before Andrew Jackson took the reins of the government from the hands of the second Adams the *Indiana Journal* made a vigorous complaint against the *Indiana Republican* at Madison for alleged copying on the part of the latter without giving proper credit. The concluding words of the attack are as follows:

But when a series of Legislative proceedings interlarded with the opinions and sentiments of members, and sometimes at considerable length is copied from this paper, as has been the practice it is believed with the *one* in question, it might not be amiss to give to it, that *credit* which is due.[3]

It was not long before the *Indiana Republican* was engaged in another personal altercation but this time in the role of accuser instead of the alleged offender. The following chastisement appeared in the columns of that paper:

Conductors of public journals who wish or expect to hold a respectable standing with their "brethren of the type" or in society generally, should treat even their opponents with civility and decency, becoming gentlemen. . . . We are led to these remarks by the managers of the

[1] *Indiana Democrat*, February 19, 1831, Indianapolis.
[2] *Indiana Democrat*, Feb. 25, 1832.
[3] *Indiana Journal*, Jan. 17, 1829, Indianapolis.

Madison Herald. Scarcely a paper has been issued from that office since its establishment but what has something in it insinuated or positive against us. Most of these writers too have been concealed from the public by some fictitious signature. We could also have published several articles in our paper over similar signatures against the editors of the *Herald.* But we did not nor would not consent to stoop to such an unprecedented course against our opponents. We sought no controversy with them but have refrained as much as circumstances would permit, from any remarks which would bring them in collision with us. But it would not do. The same *long winded, hanging on talent,* which has so often distinguished one of the editors of that paper at the bar was still manifested.[4]

The editors concluded their harangue by quoting from the *Madison Herald* a reprinted editorial attack by the Salem *Annotator* in which the *Indiana Republican* was criticised. Then, as the last lash, they, in retaliation, printed an article they had been saving, an attack on the *Madison Herald* by the Cincinnati *American.*

That the editors of Indiana were cognizant of intense partisanship on the part of some of their members is evinced by resolutions passed at the editorial convention held at Indianapolis in 1837. At this date personal attacks were discouraged and part of the sentiment of the assembled convention was expressed as follows:

Resolved, That while editors may honestly differ in political matters discussion with regard to those matters of difference should be conducted calmly and with the weapons of reason, that sophistry and agitation should not be resorted to, and personal altercations, disrespectful personal allusion, and epithets of a reproaching nature should be avoided, being alike destructive of the dignity and usefulness of the press and should never be used in reference to any editor as long as he is an acknowledged member of the editorial corps.[5]

Resolutions of an editorial convention did not prove equal to the task, howover, and editorial combats continued in the forties. The appearance of a new Whig editor, P. A. Hackleman of the Rushville *Whig,* called out some stinging personal paragraphs by J. P. Chapman, editor of the *Indiana Sentinel* at Indianapolis. Chapman spoke of the new editor in the following bitter language:

[4] *Indiana Republican,* July 22, 1840. Madison.
[5] *Logansport Canal Telegraph,* June 24, 1837.

Hackleman, the superlative fool who dubs himself editor of the Rushville *Whig*, is here in hope of getting himself elected a prosecuting attorney. His anxious mother certainly "don't know he's out" or she would have sent his dry nurse along. Such metropolitan associates as the dingy Barnett will hardly be enough to polish Hackleman sufficiently to make him a successful candidate for the office he covets. The midwife who assisted him into this breathy world hung him up by the mouth on a nail to dry; but it was found impossible to evaporate the superabundant sap in his composition and he was taken down in despair, but not before he had hung long enough to twist awry his most prominent feature, giving him, in addition to his man monkeyism, the hang-dog look for which he has ever been noted. The Legislature can certainly never stultify itself so much as to make such a jackass a prosecuting attorney.[6]

Reference to the *Journal* on the morning previous will show that Chapman's slap was a rejoinder to an article by Mr. Theodore Barnett, the editor of a rival Indianapolis paper. The attack which Chapman was so valiantly trying to match was written up in part as follows:

For two months past the celebrated George A. Chapman and his adjuncts at New Albany, and those who use him there, have been in a dilemma sufficient to draw tears from the heart of Gibraltar. We drew about eight weeks ago, an imperfect outline of this Chapman's moral profile, in which we sketched him as a low sneerer at the gospel of God; as a filthy amalgamationist, whose unveiled and unnatural debauches had caused him to be publicly cowhided in the streets of an Eastern city; as a vagabond and leprous wanderer among the factories of Liverpool, a prey to the ravages of a loathsome and horrible malady; as a habitual and lecherous drunkard, alternating between the gratification of the grossest lusts and intoxication with the regularity of a pendulum, and as an escaped felon, who had deliberately and willfully perpetrated the soul-damning crime of perjury in the County of Vigo, for which he was indicted, and from the penal effects of which he escaped by a legal technicality. We sketched him as this wretch whom the indignation of the moral community of Terre Haute, without distinction of party, had vomited forth on the town of Indianapolis.[7]

Further attempts to curb the intense personal controversies of the editors were made when another editorial convention was held in Indianapolis in 1846. At this meeting D. R. Eckles, of the *Indiana Patriot* at Greencastle introduced the following preamble and resolutions which were adopted.

[6] *Indiana Sentinel*, Dec. 20, 1842, Indianapolis.
[7] *Indiana Journal*, Dec. 19, 1842, Indianapolis.

Whereas, It is the opinion of this convention that personal controversy, abusive epithets and disreputable quarrels between editors in their respective papers—whether they are of the same political party or otherwise—tend to circumscribe the blessings of the freedom of the press, and to detract from the personal respect and honor of the profession, and of each of its members as men and politicians, and is believed to constitute one of the reasons for the illiberal and scanty patronage too often experienced in Indiana; therefore

Resolved, That we recommend to all those concerned, in conducting so highly responsible a business to themselves and to the whole country, to abstain from the use of language personally offensive and disreputable to each other; and that, as differ they must both as to men and measures, they should differ as men and gentlemen.[8]

Mr. Covington of the *Madison Weekly Courier* was quick to take to task his rival, the editor of the Madison *Banner,* for not attending the convention. In the same issue that carried an account of the proceedings of the convention, Editor Covington printed the following tirade in the form of an editorial:

We do not find the proceedings of the Convention recently held at Indianapolis, in the last number of the *Banner.* As the publication of the proceedings is to be considered as *approving and subscribing to them by the paper so publishing* them, are we to understand that our neighbor does not approve of the plan of doing away with personal controversy, abusive epithets, and disreputable quarrels . . . or would the subscribing to the above doctrines deprive our neighbor of his only weapons of warfare? We only ask for information.[9]

One week later the same editor said:

When our neighbor wants to privately electioneer for subscribers, it would be well enough for him not to tell that the type he uses is so much smaller than ours. We give as many columns of *bourgeois* type in this paper as he does and in addition, we give from two to four columns of *long primer,* which can not be found in his paper. His comparing documents will not do—as it is well known that he left out a large proportion of the President's message until we reminded him of the fact. We like an honorable opposition and wish we had it.[10]

Another example of the personal rivalry that often existed between editors in the same Indiana town, may be found in the *Democrat* of New Albany. The proprietor of the *Democrat* published an exchange from the *Bulletin* and his own answer in one issue. The statement of the *Bulletin* read:

[8] *Madison Weekly Courier,* Jan. 24, 1846.
[9] *Madison Weekly Courier,* Jan. 24, 1846.
[10] S. F. Covington in *Madison Weekly Courier,* Jan. 31, 1846.

The public have become so familiar with the constant flinging of filth by such punts at candidates, that even respectable newspapers are hardly fully relied upon during a partisan campaign.[11]

The reply to the exchange was couched in the following language:

Ha, Ha, Ha. Oh, hush! and we suppose that yours, neighbor, is one of those "respectable papers that can't be relied upon." We do not like to endorse the respectability of that sheet but that it is not "relied upon," the whole community knows. . . . . Oh; re-lie-able, truthful sheet![12]

That some editors had a just cause for grievance there can be no doubt. Henry Ward Beecher, who edited a monthly agricultural journal at Indianapolis for almost three years beginning in February, 1845, complained against some vicious practices of the time. Under the caption, "Editorial Estrays"[13] he summarized some instances of plagiarism. He alleged that in some cases whole pages had been extracted from his magazine without giving one credit to the original publisher. In other instances he maintained that proper credit was given to the publisher but the credit was placed obscurely in the middle of the article instead of at the end. His third complaint was against the publishers who, he said, appropriated articles and made them appear original by cutting off the beginnings and ends and tacking on a few words of their own. He concludes his article by this frank statement:

In all sobriety, however, we would respectfully represent that we are not sensitive on this subject because we desire the praise of the articles but for a little more substantial reason. We desire to have our paper known throughout the State; and in no way can it be advertised so well as by the republication of this matter, *with its name* attached.[14]

Despite these criticisms and personal references there was a spirit of cooperation among the members of the editorial profession. Instances are common of the whole hearted welcoming of a beginning editor with his new paper.

[11] *Tri-Weekly New Albany Democrat,* July 10, 1847.
[12] *Tri-Weekly New Albany Democrat,* July 10, 1847.
[13] *Indiana Farmer and Gardener,* July 12, 1845.
[14] *Indiana Farmer and Gardener,* July 12, 1845, Indianapolis.

Rates: Subscription and Advertising

From the viewpoint of the journalist of the twentieth century one of the greatest weaknesses of the pioneer editors was the laxness of business methods. Until the state was well advanced in organization and settlement the editors were unable to, or at least did not solve the problem of collecting for services rendered. Advertisers were slow to pay for space. Readers were slower to pay for subscriptions. The editor gave constant reminders to both. Collecting seemed to be a continual worry.

At the beginning of the period, in 1829, Elihu Stout was charging $2.50 for fifty-two numbers of his *Western Sun* but was willing to accept $2.00 as payment in full if tendered in advance. Subscribers who received the paper by mail were asked to pay the postage. Those who wished to discontinue taking the paper must first pay all arrearages.[1] John Douglass, at Indianapolis, made similar terms for the patrons of his twice-a-week *Indiana Journal.* He asked $2.00 per annum "if paid in advance and $3.00 at the end of the year".[2]

In 1839, the editor of the Connersville *Watchman* had three plans of payment: $2.00 if paid in advance, $2.50 if paid in six months, and $3.00 if delayed beyond the year.[3]

For the ill-fated *Tri-Weekly New Albany Democrat,* the terms were $2.00 for one year in advance and $5.00 for three subscriptions.[4]

Five years later Milton Gregg was putting out his daily *Tribune* at New Albany. He announced in Vol. I, No. 1, that the rates would be ten cents a week by carrier or $5.00 a year by mail "payable quarterly in advance".[5] The subscription rates for the *Daily Courier,* at Madison, in 1858 were the same but the weekly paper was only one dollar per year.[6]

The constant complaint made by the editors as late as the middle forties would indicate that subscribers were slow in paying arrearages. Almost every conceivable kind of appeal

[1] *Western Sun,* Jan. 3, 1829.
[2] *Indiana Journal,* Jan. 3, 1829, Indianapolis.
[3] *Watchman,* Dec. 6, 1839, Connersville.
[4] *Tri-Weekly New Albany Democrat,* July 1, 1847.
[5] *New Albany Daily Tribune,* Mar. 22, 1852.
[6] *Daily Evening Courier,* Nov. 17, 1858, Madison.

was made by the various editors of pioneer journals, to secure all or even part of the money due them. The situation was similar to that in Illinois where subscribers "were appealed to in prose and verse, they were cajoled, praised, lectured and denounced."[7]

Until as late as 1838 money was scare in Indiana and the editors in many cases were willing to accept produce in payment for subscriptions when they could not get money. The files of the following newspapers revealed the fact that produce would be acceptable: *Western Sun,* Vincennes; *The Indiana Republican,* Madison; *Indiana Palladium,* Lawrenceburgh; *Cass County Times,* Logansport; and the *Post,* Bloomington.

Some of these pleas are so unique that they merit being quoted in full. John Scott's paper at Logansport named three places where produce would be received and the commodity acceptable at each place. The notice ran as follows:

> Wood, Corn and Potatoes will be received at the market prices, if delivered soon in payment of this paper or old accounts. Wheat, oats and corn will be received at the highest market prices in payment for *Cass County Times* if delivered at General Milroy's near Delphi, at J. R. Merits, Tiptonsport or at Judge McCombs.[8]

One statement in the *Palladium* at Lawrenceburgh in 1833 read:

> Flour, Corn, Oats, Pork, Potatoes, and Wood received at this Office in payment for papers.[9]

One month later the following paragraph was inserted:

> Wood! Wood!! Cold types and frosty fingers are as uncomfortable companions as old age and poverty. Those who have promised us wood and others who wish to avail themselves of the privilege of making payment in this seasonable article, are advised that the roads are tolerably fair. "A word to the wise," etc. *Editor.*[10]

Five years later the proprietor of the *Post* at Bloomington was willing to accept almost any article as part or full payment for delinquent subscriptions. He stated that,

[7] Franklin W. Scott, *Newspapers and Periodicals of Illinois* 1814-1879, in *Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library* (Springfield, 1910), Vol VI, p. xxix.

[8] *Cass County Times,* Feb. 24, 1832.

[9] *Indiana Palladium,* Dec. 14, 1833.

[10] *Indiana Palladium,* Jan. 11, 1834.

Persons expecting to pay for their papers in produce must do so or the cash will be extracted.[11] Pork, flour, corn, and meal will be taken at the market prices. Also those who expect to pay us in firewood must do so immediately—we must have our wood laid in for the winter before the roads get bad.[12]

The whole plan of getting money from subscribers was so unsatisfactory by the end of the 1830's, that some of the more progressive editors were looking for a better method of being paid for their work. Late in 1839, it was decided that the adoption of a cash system would be most advantageous. July 4, 1840, was the date set for the new system to go into effect. After this time none of the editors of eleven papers, who became parties to the agreement, were to let papers go out without having first received the subscription price. The proprietors who entered the agreement and the papers they represented were: Douglass and Noel of the *Indiana Journal;* John Livingtson of the *Indiana Democrat;* Edwin T. Gabriel of the Connersville *Watchman;* J. C. and D. Douglass of the *Logansport Herald;* Holloway and Davis of the *Richmond Palladium;* W. H. and J. J. Chandler of the Evansville *Journal;* Milton Gregg of the *Political Beacon;* Stuart and Kipp of the *Michigan City Gazette;* Mattingly and Green of the *New Albany Gazette;* C. Hay and Z. W. Rowse of the Salem *Whig;* and Hannum and Grubbs of the *Indiana Sun.*[13]

A cash system for newspapers was a step forward and although there were still many things that could be improved in the management of the newspapers the constant bickering and quarreling with subscribers was done away with. The papers with a large city circulation solved the problem sooner than those in the rural communities, which had a large mailing list. The former could leave collections in the hands of carriers and no patron need be more than a week or two in arrears.

The advertising rates of Indiana newspapers for twenty years after 1829 were surprisingly uniform.[14] The rates at

[11] How this would be done he did not say.

[12] *Post,* Oct. 26, 1838.

[13] *Tri-Weekly Journal,* Dec. 9, 1839, Indianapolis.

[14] See *Tri-Weekly Journal,* Dec. 9, 1829; *Indiana Republican,* July 15, 1830, Madison; *Cass County Times,* Nov. 16, 1831; Connersville *Watchman,* Dec. 6, 1839; and *Tri-Weekly New Albany Democrat,* July 1, 1847.

which space was offered was one dollar for ten lines or less for one insertion and twenty-five cents for each additional insertion. Merchants and others who would agree to a yearly contract were given a liberal discount.

At the editorial convention held in Indianapolis in 1837, uniform advertising rates were agreed upon for Indiana publishers.[15] The schedule as adopted confirmed the above rates and set the amount to be charged; for a square (250 ems) at $10.00 per annum; for two squares $15.50; and three squares $20.00. The rate for a quarter of a column was $25.00, for a half column $35.00, and for a column $50.00 per annum. Chancery notices, divorce petitions and foreign advertisements were to be paid for by cash in advance.

Although the editors did not have as much difficulty in collecting for advertising as they did for subscriptions yet there were many pleas printed in the 1830's and the 1840's for dilatory advertisers to come to the office and settle their accounts.

The Contents of the Antebellum Papers

Aside from minor characteristics peculiar to certain newspapers, the pioneer press in Indiana had some general features which were common to all. A composite picture of many papers published in the state any time between 1829 and 1849 would fit almost any paper. The similarity of style and of makeup or arrangement of subject matter is quite noticeable.

From the standpoint of the historian and those who are interested in the every day life of Hoosiers almost one hundred years ago, the absence of local news is regrettable. The pioneer papers were almost destitute of local references.[1] Exceptions to this were the local ads, a few communications and speeches, and accounts of some unusual events which came along occasionally.

Taking place of local news were the clippings from eastern and middle western newspapers. It may have been that in

[15] All these rates in detail may be seen in *Western Sun,* June 24, 1837.

[1] See files of almost any pioneer journal; *Biographical and Historical Record of Adams and Wells Counties,* Indiana, 598; History of Hendricks County, Indiana, 428; *Counties of La Grange and Noble, Indiana Historical and Biographical,* 76.

using these exchanges the editors were following the line of least resistance. It apparently was much easier to copy bodily choice articles from the eastern press that came by mail than to ferret out enough local news to fill the same amount of space. Then, with only a punter or a printer and his devil, it may have been physically impossible to go outside the office to gather up and report local news. Yet the readers were apparently not critical concerning this method of preparing a large portion of their reading matter.

The successive issues of the *Western Sun,* during the month of July, 1830, reveal to what extent these articles were used and are typical of the practices of the period. Editor Stout's weekly journal carried exchanges for the publication of July 3 from the following papers: *Western Times, Ohio Monitor, Baltimore Republican, Louisville Public Advertiser, Budgeton, N. J. Whig, American Manufacturer, U. S. Telegraph, Cincinnati Gazette,* Lynchburg *Virginian, Pennsylvania Inquirer,* New York *Herald,* New York *Courier, and Inquirer,* and *Gazette de France.* Those used the following week were: Macon *Telegraph, Marietta Gazette, Texas Gazette, Evening Post* (Chillicothe, Ohio), *Ohio State Journal, Miami Times* and *Philadelphia Morning Journal.* The issue for July 17 depended upon an entirely new group, including: New York *Evening Post, St. Louis Times,* Galena *Journal, Baltimore American,* Louisville *Public Advertiser,* Muskingum *Messenger,* Harrisburg *Intelligence, New England Galaxy* and the *Mountaineer.* To complete the paper for July 24 the editor published clippings from: the *National Intelligencer, Dayton Republican,* Louisville *Public Advertiser,* Frederick *Citizen, Kentucky Nation,* Kanhawa *Register,* New York *Medical Inquirer,* and Winchester *Republican.* The last publication for the month, that of July 31, contained reprints from the *New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette, National Journal,* Louisville *Public Advertiser, Banner of the Constitution,* Raleigh *Star and Gazette,* and the *Nottingham Review,* an English paper.

In some issues the editor used two clippings from the same paper and in some few cases three. The nearness of Vincennes to Louisville and St. Louis and the fact that mail brought batches of papers from those towns quite often tend

to explain the frequent appearance of articles from there. When a paper reached the office of one of these early printers it was used freely. Editors in the towns on the Ohio river, such as Madison, Lawrenceburgh, and New Albany received news from New Orleans, from boat captains. Not long after the arrival of one of the larger boats there would appear news notes and exchanges from other towns along the river. During the period of the Mexican War editors were unusually anxious to get this kind of service.

After the introduction of the telegraph, eastern exchanges were not used so often, but Indiana editors still exchanged papers. In 1854 *Chapman's Chanticleer* in one weekly issue carried properly acknowledged articles from these papers: *Evansville Enquirer; Free Democrat,* Centerville; Vincennes *Patriot;* Warsaw *Republican; Brookville Democrat; South Bend Register; White River Standard,* Bedford; *Locomotive,* Crawfordsville; *Courier,* Madison; *New Albany Ledger, Sentinel,* Indianapolis; *Rushville Republican;* and *Goshen Democrat.*[2] The *Chanticleer* was a political organ and the articles were all on current campaign topics.

In using material from other sources the editors as a rule were frank and faithfully credited the article to its proper paper. Of course there were some cases of unfair tactics. In most cases unless an editor had taken on a war with a rival there was no complaint. Occasionally he would announce in his own columns that brother editors were at liberty to use any of his material, providing the proper acknowledgment was made. At times the proprietor would print notices similar to this: "Louisville and Cincinnati papers please copy". For example, Editor Stout of the Vincennes *Sun* in 1834 said that

> the *Herald* a newspaper at Evansville publishes a statement by a Mr. Daugherty of an affray at that place . . . and the editor requests that it may be copied into all other papers. To gratify our new brother and to do an act of justice to the citizens of Evansville it shall have a place next week.[3]

About three weeks later the *Indiana Palladium* printed this:

[2] *Chapman's Chanticleer,* Jan. 26, 1854, Indianapolis.
[3] *Western Sun,* October 11, 1834.

The Editors of the *Cincinnati Republican* and *Western Hemisphere* who recently copied from this paper an advertisement, signed "Walter Armstrong" will please discontinue it as the property is sold.[4]

Henry Ward Beecher expressed an opinion concerning the exchange of papers as follows:

We send our paper to many established journals, soliciting an exchange; an even one if they please, but otherwise we will, upon notification pay the difference willingly, for the benefit of the labors of our able contemporaries.[5]

The subject matter of this reprinted material was miscellaneous in character and included information about all kinds of human activities. The titles of some of these articles borrowed from other journals will indicate their varied character. One issue of the *Indiana Journal* carried these articles: "Minutes of the Proceedings of Congress"; "Bibb elected by the Kentucky legislature to succeed Col. R. M. Johnson whose term has expired"; "Surveyor lost in a Quagmire"; "U. S. Revenue Collected"; "Proposed boundary of the new territory of Huron"; and "Ohio man claims to be the brother of Jesus Christ".[6] The next year, the editor of a Madison paper used the entire front page to print an exchange from the *Cherokee Phoenix* on the right of Georgia to extend her laws over the Cherokee nation.[7]

The advertisements of business establishments in the different towns give an indication of the types of stores there and the kinds of articles each had to sell. Such information sheds some light on the early local history of the communities.

In 1830 a Madison paper placed its commercial advertisements on the third and fourth pages.[8] Commodities advertised were hay, wheat, queensware, tea, window glass, and gunpowder. By 1839 merchants were evidently beginning to see the value of advertising and the number of advertisers were increasing as well as was the amount of space used in each advertisement. A four page Connersville weekly in December of that year published sales notices of the following nature: real estate, commission packing, dry goods, fire insur-

[4] *Indiana Palladium,* Nov. 1, 1834.
[5] *The Indiana Farmer and Gardener,* Feb. 1, 1845, Indianapolis.
[6] *Indiana Journal,* Jan. 3, 1829, Indianapolis.
[7] *Indiana Republican,* Oct. 7, 1830.
[8] *The Indiana Republican,* Oct. 7, 1830.

ance, hats, shovels, nails, yarns, boots and shoes.[9] On the same page were the following notices: an administrator's notice regarding the settlement of an estate,[10] patrons requested to pay butcher at once; apprentice wanted at the *Watchman* office; dissolution of partnership; a women's monthly magazine; a doctor's card; and an announcement that one Connersville man had a farriery[11] and blacksmith shop combined.

In one issue in 1847 the editor of the *Democrat* at New Albany, a tri-weekly paper of four pages of four columns each, used the entire first and fourth pages and a part of the third page for advertisements. The first two columns contained the following miscellaneous advertisements: farms and mills for sale, groceries and fruits, cheese, new books, corn, powder, wholesale drugs and chemicals, tobacco, window paper, vinegar, flour, and notices of a sheriff's sale, and a coming election of a school trustee. Columns three and four on this page were filled with tea advertisements. The content of the fourth page was similar to that of the first.[12]

The advertisements which appeared in the antebellum newspapers in Indiana should be of great value to the historian in attempting to interpret the life of the people in that period. Before the adoption of local news as a feature of the papers, advertisements were appearing. At that time no other part of the paper was as close to the daily life of the people in a given community as were the advertisements.

In pioneer days when the duties of a newspaper proprietor were laborious and the amount of revenue derived from the profession comparatively small, it was only natural for the editor to accept practically any kind of advertisement. By 1850 patent medicine advertisements were being inserted freely and seemingly without restriction. Choice positions were given to them and many appeared on the front page. They must have been welcome sources of revenue. One of the more pretentious advertisements appeared for weeks at a time in the daily *Tribune* at New Albany in 1852.[13] It was in

[9] *The Watchman,* Dec. 6, 1839.
[10] This was appearing for the sixth consecutive week.
[11] A veterinary surgeon's shop.
[12] *Tri-Weekly New Albany Democrat,* Sept. 30, 1847.
[13] *New Albany Daily Tribune,* June 30, 1852.

the interests of "Radway's Ready Remedies", and occupied two-thirds of a column. It was claimed that these remedies, three in number were so "prepared as to harmonize and act in unison with each other" and when taken separately or together would instantly stop pain. The claim for No. 1 of the trio, "Radway's Ready Relief", said, "It has cured in ninety cases out of a hundred", rheumatism, neuralgia, croup, diarrhoea, toothache, spasm, cramps, sick headache, chill fever, sore throat and influenza. As if to ward off the possible objections that might be raised by any "doubting Thomas" figures were presented to show that 70,000 cases of rheumatism had been cured in three large eastern cities and Michigan and Illinois. Whether it was modesty or the cost of advertising that prevented the company from making other extravagant claims is not known, yet one might suspect it was not modesty.

Since the above remedy did not attempt to cure quite all the diseases human flesh was heir to, a second remedy was offered for sale. This was "Radway's Renovating Resolvent" and was warranted to cure scrofula, humors, cancers, tumors, rickets, salt rheum, syphilis, epilepsy, ulcers, and fever sores.

If by chance the ailment was one not covered by the first or second remedy, a third called "Radway's Regulators" was recommended. Claims were made in the advertisement that No. 3 would cure indigestion, sour stomach, measles, liver complaint, dyspepsia, constipation, heart burn, smallpox, kidney complaint, and six kinds of fever.

To the historian, patent medicine advertisements of this and similar nature show that unscrupulous companies deliberately attempted to mislead readers who knew little about the problems of disease and health. They also reveal a low standard of the press. Advertisements of questionable character should have been rejected by the editor.[14]

Miscellaneous notices, which appeared rather frequently were lists of uncalled for letters remaining at the local postoffices,[15] the schedules for outgoing and incoming mail, de-

[14] But the practice is still carried on by some of the twentieth century papers.

[15] The *Indiana Journal* of Indianapolis, on April 30, 1829, carried lists of unclaimed letters in these Indiana postoffices: Greensburgh, Bedford, Crawfordsville, Green Castle, and Bloomfield.

scriptions of estrayed or stolen animals and notices of various court proceedings. From 1829 until at least 1840 occasional warnings appeared against the public harboring fugitives from justice, runaway slaves, and "bound boys".[16]

Before the Civil War lottery notices were common. Much stress was placed on the liberal prizes offered but the individual was not told that he had only one chance out of hundreds to win anything.

Communications to the editor were published in many of the pioneer journals. Many of these letters were on political subjects and a larger number appeared during a campaign than at any other time. Some of these communications would not be considered worth reading today while a few were able presentations. Writers seldom signed their names to communications but instead preferred anonymity. To illustrate, the *Western Sun*, at Vincennes, from August 1, 1829, to October 1, 1831, inclusive, contained contributions to which the following names were signed: Humilus, Unus, A citizen of old Knox, Senex, Hays of the West, Je Latinebus Indianorum, Cassius, Vincennes, T., Don Quizzicus, Noah, Justice, No Jockey, and a Wanderer. Since they were in many cases anonymous there is no way to tell who wrote them. Even the editor may have made some of the contributions.

The newspapers show that the custom of drinking toasts was quite common in Indiana, in the 1830's. Toasts were given during important celebrations and especially at patriotic meetings. On July 4, 1835, at Lawrenceburgh, thirteen regular and five volunteer toasts were given.[17] A few days later in the same town, when a celebration was held at the commencement of the Lawrenceburgh and Indianapolis Railroad, thirteen regular and twenty volunteer toasts were given.[18]

At the conclusion of a patriotic celebration of Washington's birthday at Logansport in 1832 toasts on the following subjects were given: General George Washington, the Army and Navy of the U. S., the suffering Poles, France, the Liberty Tree, Charles Carroll, General Lafayette, the memory of Simon Bolivar, Indiana, and the American Fair. After this,

[16] Indentured apprentices.
[17] *Indiana Palladium*, July 11, 1835, Lawrenceburgh.
[18] *Ibid.*, July 25, 1835.

twenty-three volunteer toasts were given which ranged from two to six lines in length when printed.[19]

Some of the papers carried contributions of poetry and prose from local writers. Toward the 1840's and thereafter more attention was given to this kind of material. Many of the short stories were from one to two columns in length and were reprinted from other newspapers. These stories were often melodramatic in character. The humorous articles, which were brief, centered around pioneer life. Puns were common.

The Newspapers and Politics

No history of Indiana newspaper development would be complete that did not show the intimate relationship which the paper bore to politics. The titles borne by many of the papers suggested their political alignment, while only a glance at the subject matter of others is required.

The very existence of many of the pioneer papers was dependent upon the results of elections. Many a paper took an active part in a political campaign only to die when the party it supported lost in the election. Others were launched as political organs with the intention of being kept in the field only till election day. In some few cases an editor of a daily or tri-weekly would put out a special political edition every week during a campaign. Some examples of purely political papers were: *Spirit of '76,* 1840; *Chapman's Coon Skinner,* 1844; *Whig Rifle,* 1844; and *Chapman's Chanticleer,* 1854; all printed in Indiaanpolis.

The pioneer journals seemed to go through a boom period during the progress of closely contested national and state campaigns. Journals already established increased their circulations and new ones entered the field. If the contents of the papers during the period 1829-1860 is any criterion, then Hoosiers were already thinking, talking and living politics. In campaign times political articles outnumbered every other kind. If there were two papers in a community they were usually on the opposite "sides of the fence" politically. If

[19] *Cass County Times,* Feb. 24, 1832.

only a single paper was in the locality, it usually supported the party that seemed strongest. In most instances an editor would move to another town when his clientele seemed hostile. One case is on record, however, where an editor "flopped" from the advocacy of Democratic principles to those of Whig. Samuel Meredith, editor of the *Peoples Advocate,* "finding that a Democratic journal could not be made to pay in Wayne County, changed the name of his paper to the *Wayne County Chronicle* and advocated Whig principles".[1]

Sometimes stock companies composed of men of one political faith would set up an editor in business in order to have an organ of their own in the neighborhood. The *Pulaski Democrat* was a product of this sort of organization. According to one account it was founded in 1858,

> when several prominent Democrats formed a sort of a stock company, purchased the necessary material and engaged . . . a Mr. James Mahaffie to manage and edit their party paper called the *Pulaski Democrat.*[2]

Elections were held every year and one was no sooner over than preparations were started for another. An example of an early announcement for office occurred in Knox County in 1831. Just nineteen days after the election in August, 1831, the editor of the *Sun* at Vincennes said,

> I am authorized to announce James Burns as a candidate for sheriff at our next August election.[3]

The methods of the editors in getting their political messages to their subscribers varied with the editor and with the amount of material available. Editorials, jokes, accounts of meetings and rallies, communications and exchanges were all employed to inform and to influence (if possible) the reader.

If an editor survived an election with his paper and continued to publish it regularly, he found in the messages of the president and the governor and in the proceedings of the legislature and congress, another fertile source of supply. Much importance was attached to this kind of news throughout the entire period from 1829 to 1860.

[1] *History of Wayne County, Indiana,* 533.

[2] *Counties of White and Pulaski, Indiana, Historical and Biographical* (Chicago, 1883), p. 530.

[3] *Western Sun,* Aug. 20, 1831.

Scott and Van Derveer used over half of one issue of their *Cass County Times* in 1832 to present one of Jackson's messages. Their statement to subscribers was,

> The length of the President's message has excluded several articles intended for this number—they will appear next week.[4]

In October, 1833, the proprietor of the *Republican and Herald*, at Logansport said,

> We are compelled to omit several editorials, as well as other articles, intended for this paper, in consequence of the great length of the letter from the President to the members of his Cabinet on the propriety of removing the deposites of the U. S. Bank. But we do not hesitate to say that after an attentive perusal of the document . . . the reader will not censure our selection.[5]

The explanation of the editor of the *Palladium* which accompanied the publication of President Jackson's message to congress on December 3, 1833, read as follows:

> We have necessarily robbed our paper of its accustomed variety, and we have left over much interesting matter. Next week we will endeavor to bring up the deferred articles.[6]

In 1834, exactly one year later the same editor made an apology for taking up fourteen of the twenty columns in printing the message of Governor Noble to the Indiana General Assembly and that of Jackson to congress. He said,

> We are indebted to the assistant postmaster at Cincinnati for the President's message which we give today to the exclusion of other matter. Our advertising friends will please excuse any neglect this week.[7]

The next year the message was unavoidably divided by the editor who hastened to explain. He said,

> We present our readers, today, with about half of the President's Message. The first side of our paper was struck off before we received the message or we should have published the whole of it this week.[8]

Editor Stout expressed the same idea to his readers when he said:

[4] *Cass County Times*, Aug. 18, 1832.
[5] *The Logansport Republican and Indiana Herald*, Oct. 24, 1833.
[6] *Indiana Palladium*, Dec. 4, 1833, Lawrenceburgh.
[7] *Ibid.*, Dec. 13, 1834.
[8] *Indiana Palladium*, Dec. 19, 1835.

I have filled the *Sun* of today with the proceedings of Congress and of our State Legislature, almost to the exclusion of everything else. Believing this kind of reading more important than any other at this time I shall continue to do so during their sittings.[9]

The practice was still common in 1858. Editor Garber of the *Courier* at Madison announced:

Our readers will perceive that Mr. Buchanan's message occupies for the last two days a large proportion of our paper, to the almost total exclusion of other news.[10]

There are at least three reasons why the editors took such an interest in politics and government and printed so much of this type of news. In the first place the newspaper was a reflection of the interests of the people of Indiana. The people of Indiana became more interested in politics after Jackson, a western man, reached the presidency. It was only natural for the editor to try to give them suitable reading matter. In the second place, there was government printing to be done, federal, state, and local, which was worth working for. The way to get this printing was to line up with a party, fight for it desperately and claim the reward if victory resulted. Another reason which motivated some of the Indiana editors in entering the list for a particular political party, was the expectation or hope of getting an office. Success was crowning their labors as early as Jackson's second election. One historian summarized the situation at this time as follows:

There are evidences during the year 1832 that the editors of the state were receiving more political honors than formerly. George Kinnard, editor of the *Indiana Democrat*, was elected to Congress from the Indianapolis district; John Ewing of the *Wabash Telegraph* was elected from the Vincennes district, David V. Culley of the Lawrenceburg *Palladium* came up as state senator from Dearborn, Alexander Morrison of the *Indiana Democrat* represented Marion and Hamilton counties in the Senate, Marks Crume and Caleb Smith of the Connersville papers represented Fayette, and James H. Wallace, an editor of Madison came up from Jefferson.[11]

Many Indiana editors were active partisans during the period 1829 to 1860 on state and local issues and upon the

[9] *Western Sun*, Dec. 25, 1834.

[10] *Daily Evening Courier*, Dec. 10, 1858.

[11] Logan Esarey. "History of the Press in Indiana" in *Indianapolis Star*, March 28, 1915.

big national questions such as: The Jackson-Calhoun-Clay fight, the bank, internal improvements, election of 1840, the Compromise of 1850, the Free Soil movement, the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the slavery controversy.

Conclusion

For the progress made by pioneer communities in Indiana, no little credit should be given to the early editors and their newspapers. Although the newspapers have often been controversial and partisan in character, have been irregular in publication, and have printed many things of trivial nature and omitted important matters, they have been, nevertheless of inestimable value to the state.

The press entered the state with the early inhabitants. It preceded by several years in many communities: free schools, public libraries, railroads and telegraph lines. When there were no schools its pages were one of the few sources of education. When there were no public libraries and books were too expensive for the average family, newspaper stories were read eagerly. When railroads and telegraph lines had not entered the state the pioneer traveled little and must have relied heavily on the local paper for news of the outside world. All the more credit should be given the editor because he worked courageously despite the presence of numerous hardships and handicaps.

In conclusion it may be added that we owe much to the files of antebellum papers for the aid they give in reconstructing the past. Their columns will be ever welcome aids in throwing light on the manners, thoughts, customs, ideas, amusements and troubles of our forefathers.

Story of The Western Sun---Indiana's First

Governor Harrison Gave Financial Aid

Where Lincoln First Saw Printing Press

Old Sun Shop of Lincoln's Day Pictured

HOW VINCENNES LOOKED IN 1838

TOLD BY WRITER

7

Story of The Western Sun--Indiana's First Newspaper

Governor Harrison Gave Financial Aid For Pioneer Editor

Territorial Ruler Equipped Boat For Elihu Stout Whereby He Could Go to Kentucky To Bring Back Press and Type.

FOUNDER'S ANCESTRY BACK TO 1642

Began Career as Publisher at the Age of 22; Was Close Friend of Andrew Jackson—Trained in Kentucky.

(Copyrighted by The Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, 1930).

By ALICE CAUTHORN POTTER.

As a background to my story of the life of Elihu Stout, I wish to relate to you a part of the early history of the Stout family in America.

It was about the year 1642, Penelope Van Prince a native of Holland sailed for the New World with her young husband, Mr. Kent. As they approached the end of their voyage, a storm arose which cast the vessel upon the beach somewhere between Long Branch and Sandy Hook, New Jersey. Penelope Van Prince was the only one known to have survived.

An Indian, who went to the shore in the early morning, after the storm, was attracted to a clump of bushes, by the barking of his dog. Under the bushes he discovered a half clad woman, apparently dead. He threw his blanket about her and finding that there was still a spark of life in the body, carried her to his wigwam. Examining her injuries, he found her abdomen laid open so that the bowels protruded. He washed and sewed up the wound, using withes of a tree for thread and fishbones, for needles. She was the only white person in this Indian settlement, which is now Monmouth County, New Jersey, and she remained here for many months or until entirely recovered and married Richard Stout.

The Ind[illegible] took her in his canoe to [illegible]sterdam, now New York City, where she was left with some Dutch friends. It was here Penelope met Richard Stout, son of John Stout, of Nottinghamshire England, whom she latter married. Young Stout had wished to marry some girl in England whom his father did not consider his equal, and in anger had enlisted on a man-of-war ship. His seven years of service expiring while the vessel was in New Amsterdam, he remained there.

After Richard Stout married Penelope Van Prince they went to Gravesand, Long Island, to live, where two or three of their children were born. However, Mrs. Stout longed to return to her Indian home in New Jersey, and they induced four other families to move with them. Their names were Hartsborne, Brown, Lawrence and Groves. These five families purchased of the Indians immense tracts of land. Bartown is built on a part of the land owned by Andrew Brown. The properties owned by the Stouts had the old village of Middletown on it, and also an extensive farming country known as Pleasant Valley.

About 1880, the Baptist Church of Middletown celebrated its bi-centennial. Richard Stout, Sr., and Richard Stout, Jr., were among the constitutent members of the early church.

The Stouts first son was named Jonathan. The second son, Richard, who had a son John, therefore grandson to Penelope. When his grandmother was about 85 years old he took her on his horse to visit one of her children, and when he helped her alight, she insisted upon his putting his hand through the pocket-hole of her garment to feel the seam which the Indian sewed up. He was young and bashful, but she said, "Johnny you can tell it to your grandchildren."

Mrs. Theresa Seabrook of Keyport, N. Y., write this tradition. Her grandmother was one of the grandchildren to whom John Stout told the story, and when she told the incident to Mrs. Seabrook, she said, "and so I tell it to you as she said," with an air of it having descended from a prophetess.

Richard and Penelope Stout were the great-great grandparents of my great grandfather Elihu Stout.

Elihu Stout Born.

Elihu Stout, the son of Judiah and Mary Stout, was born April 16, 1782, in Newark, New Jersey, where at an early age he learned the art of the printer's trade.

Judiah Stout, the father of Elihu, fought in the American Revolution. The War of Independence had been over some ten years when the father felt the urge of migrating towards "the West," which was then anywhere beyond the Alleghenies, so with his family joined the ever-increasing western caravan, crossed the

ELIHU STOUT

mountains and settled at Lexington, Kentucky. Here young Stout obtained employment on the Kentucky Gazette, published by the Bradfords. John Bradford was the pioneer printer in Kentucky, he and his son were the leading men of the Bluegrass capital, intimate friends of Henry Clay and comfortably wealthy.

The center of interest at this time was the new Northwest Territory, so in 1799, Stout severed [illegible] connecti[illegible]th the Gazette, [illegible] the [illegible]ips of a lonely wilderness journe[illegible] to see with his own eyes what fortune for him lay in and around the new Northwest Territory. But the few whites in the Old Post were more concerned in military exploits and defenses against savages and hostile tribes than in newspaper enterprises and gave the young man no encouragement. He then went to Nashville, Tennessee, where he obtained employment. While working in Nashville at his printer's trade he met Andrew Jackson, and a close friendship sprang up between the two and lasted during their lives. This friendship had quite a bearing upon Stout's later editorial career.

Aided By Harrison.

Ambitious to edit a newspaper of his own and having faith in the new Northwest Territory, he left Nashville and went again to Kentucky to solicit aid for his undertaking, but little aid did he find. Undaunted, he again came to Vincennes in 1803 to try for success.

It was about this date that Aaron Burr journeyed to Vincennes to find a residence and seek Gov. Harrison's assistance in electing him to a seat in Congress, but Gov. Harrison, who gave aid and council to Elihu Stout's ambitious enterprise, gave Burr no encouragement.

Gov. Harrison equipped a boat for Mr. Stout in which he journeyed back to Kentucky by way of the Wabash, Ohio and Kentucky rivers, where he obtained an outfit, including a wooden press. Authorities differ as to where the press was obtained. I have heard my father say the material was procured in Kentucky and transported to Vincennes on mules or pack horses.

To appreciate the difficulties that confronted pioneer Stout in 1803, it is necessary to consider the handicaps of a century ago. There were no roads leading from Vincennes to the East at that time. The people were poor. They depended largely upon their own produce from the soil for necessities of life. Money was extremely difficult to obtain and some of it worth less than its face value.

The First Newspaper.

Returning to Vincennes with his valued but meager material he diligently set about opening the first newspaper office, on the grounds opposite the freight depot of the B & O railway on north First Street. Unassisted and with much toil he set up his own press, and on July 4th, 1804, issued the first number of "The Indiana Gazotte," the first paper published within the limits of Indiana, and the first paper published anywhere in the Northwest Territory, except the "Liberty Hall" and "Cincinnati Gazette," published at Cincinnati, Ohio, a short time previous. This paper thus founded has with slight interruptions, a continued existence to the present time.

From the columns of the Gazette have been gleaned much of the contemporaneous history of early Hoosierdom. Editor Stout's first big story was the Hamilton-Burr duel, fought on Palisades, N. Y., July 11, 1804. He didn't think much of it, it was put back on an inside page. The Gazette published many stories about Napoleon Boneparte, he was proclaimed Emperor of France the year the Gazette was founded.

Had Five Children.

On April 24, 1806, Elihu Stout married Lucy Sullivan, daughter of General Henry Sullivan, who lived on a farm near Louisville, Kentucky. To this union were born five children; Viz. Susan, Mary, Eliza, Henry and James.

Lucy Sullivan's brother, George Rogers Clark Sullivan, was the first postmaster of Vincennes and a prominent attorney. In one case he received as a fee, the portrait of his namesake, George Rogers Clark. This was one of the only two ever painted from life. It is preserved in the Vincennes University.

The Stouts' oldest child, Susan, was born in 1806. Susan Stout married Dr. Gabriel Cauthorn, a young physician of Lawrenceville, Illinois, who died a few years later, leaving one son, Henry Sullivan Cauthorn. Susan Cauthorn then returned to her father's home with her young son. Thus it happened that my father was reared in the home and under the guiding influence of his grandfather, Elihu Stout.

Plant Is Destroyed.

In April 1806, misfortune overtook the adventurous young Editor. A disasterous fire completely destroyed the plant of the Gazette, but Stout's unconquerable spirit was not to be subdued. He immediately went back to Kentucky and there, from a source in Virginia, produced another press and supply of paper, which he carried to Vincennes on pack mules over the old buffalo trail. Again on the birthday of our Independence, 1807, he issued a number of his paper. This time Editor Stout gave it a new title, "The Western Sun."

The early files of the Gazette were destroyed. Scattering issues of the paper before the fire are extant. The American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass., has one, and there is one at Harvard. My brother, Henry Sullivan Cauthorn, Jr., has the lost issue before the fire, it is dated April 12, 1806.

Recorded History.

These old papers contain much valuable history that is nowhere else to be found in the country. One authority states that if all the files of the Old Western Sun were available, he could write from its pages a worth while history of the United States.

There was the story of Fulton and his first steamboat, published in 1807. The War of 1812 followed. The locomotive was invented about this time and the story of the burning of the White House by the British was related. Napoleon abdicated his throne, and, in 1815, Jackson licked the British at New Orleans. Then there was a real story in 1816. Indiana was admitted into the Union. In 1819, the first steamboat crossed the Atlantic, this was another really big story. In 1821, the Sun chronicled the fact that Mexico won her independence from Spain, and so on as history is unfolded.

These old files bound in 25 volumes reaching nearly to 1830, were brought from my father, the late Henry Sullivan Cauthorn, Sr., and are now preserved in the State Library. The old stone upon which these papers were printed, is now at my mother's home in Vincennes.

The Lincoln Incident.

In March 1830, Abraham Lincoln traveled from his home in Spencer county, Indiana, through Vincennes. Lincoln, then a youth of 1, spent the greater part of a three days' visit with Elihu Stout in the office of The Western Sun A drawig by Albert Reid, artist of Washington, D. C., shows Lincoln visiting Stout in his workroom and gazing on a hand printing press for the first time. The picture is entitled, "First Meeting of the two great emancipators."

In the early years of the Western Sun, Stout formed a partnership with Jonathan Jennings, who later became the first Governor of Indiana. Because of the different political views of the two men, this partnership lasted only a few months.

Appointed Postmaster.

Elihu Stout continued editing The Western Sun until 1845, when he was appointed postmaster at Vincennes, and this ended his editorial career.

At the expiration of his term as postmaster he was elected by the voters of Knox County, Recor of Deeds, he served in this office for two terms, although the county was strongly opposed to him in politics at the time.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Also a very enthusiastic Mason and was the first worshipful Master of the Vincennes lodge. After the organization of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, he was elected Grand Master of that lodge. This election took place at Salem, and he served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in Indiana one year, from October 1827 until October 1928.

His death was very sudden and hastened by the troubles in the Democratic party in 1860, which he believed would result in the dissolution of the Union or a long and bloody war. He died in April, 1860, and according to his wishes was buried with Masonic rites in the Vincennes City cemetery.

High Ideals.

To exemplify the high ideals of Elihu Stout, I here wish to quote his words printed in the first issue of the Gazette.

TO THE PUBLIC:

At length, after great trouble and much expense, the public is presented with the first number of the Indiana Gazette. Without deviation from the general rule of newspaper printers, in the first number the editor addresses the public and lays down the principles which ..all govern the publication. His object shall be to collect and publish such information as will give a correct account of the productions and natural advantages of the Territory, to give the latest foreign and domestic intelligence: original essays, political, Moral, Literary, Agricultural, and on Domestic Economics—etc.

The political complection of the paper shall be truly republican; but it never shall be prostituted to party. Essays of any political complection, couched in decent language, shall find a ready insertion—but the Editor pledges himself that the columns of the Gazette shall never be tarnished with matter that can offend the eye of decency or a blush upon the check of modesty and virtue.

With this outline, the Indiana Gazette is submitted for patronage to a generous and enlightened public—and the Editor feels confident of encouragement, equal to his merit, and though it is not always in our power to command success, yet he will ever "endeavor to deserve it."

Signed E. STOUT.

Thus it can be seen that Elihu Stout, through his publications, his public spirit, and his fine character, wielded a wide influence in early Indiana, for nearly half a century.

It has been well said, that in the order of their importance, the invasion of Elihu Stout and his printing press in the northwest territory, is second only to the conquests of George Rogers Clark.

Where Lincoln First Saw Printing Press

The original home of The Western Sun, or the Indiana Gazette the name first given to it, was destroyed by fire, but in 1807 the second home, as shown above, was built. This stood for more than 100 years and was tore down only in recent years. For many years, it housed a grist mill of a colored man by the name of Smith. He knocked out the chinking between the logs of which the place was built, and let the belts that operated the machinery pass between the logs. A marker has been erected at the corner of First and Buntin street, indicating where the old building stood, but the real indication was north of this, directly opposite the present B. & O. freight house.

CHARGED WITH AFFRAY

John Balthis and Archibald Scott were acquitted of an "affray March 3, 1830, by a jury composed of Micajah Beckwell, Barnabas Wellman, Asa McCord, Henson Harbin, Frederick Watson, John Underwood, Randal Morgan, John Devore, Alexander Fullen, Alexander McCray, Pierre Gaulin and Absalom Reel.

BIG SUPPORT MONEY

Milo Huffman granted a divorce from Joseph Huffman, March, 1830, and Huffman ordered to pay $5.00 a year support money.

Old Sun Shop of Lincoln's Day Pictured

On July 4th, 1904, a Centennial issue of the Western Sun was issued, which contained many interesting stories about the history of the paper, together with numerous illustrations of the growth of Vincennes and the progress of Knox County. Among the special articles is one written by Hon. Henry S. Cauthorn, for many years a highly esteemed member of the Knox County bar and an authority on the early history of the Old Post, in which he graphically recites in detail the exact premises of the Western Sun office at the time the plant was visited by Abraham Lincoln.

The real estate described carefully in Mr. Cauthorn's article is the block on North First street, east of the freight depot of the B & O railroad and between Buntin and Perry streets. The exact corner of the block on which stood the first office of the Western Sun is now vacant; the corner which touched Second street on the south and east is occupied by the Koh-I-Noor laundry; while the north half of the block from First to Second streets is occupied by the wholesale house and private railroad switch of E. Bierhaus & Sons.

Since this article was written, the old office has been torn down and many other changes have taken place in the 26 intervening years. This article of Mr. Cauthorn follows:

When Elihu Stout, the founder of The Western Sun, came to Vincennes in 1804, and issued the first number of the paper on July 4, of that year, he at once cast about to secure a permanent abiding place. He purchased by deed in January, 1805, from Pierre Rowux, an old French grant of the uniform size and which French grants were the only real estate tenures in the place at that early date, and immediately took actual possession of his purchase. This French grant was situated on the west corner of First, or St. Louis street, and Buntin street in Vincennes.

Unusual Title.

This conveyance was prior to any incorporation or survey of the place and passed a title anterior and superior to any of the United States to any lands in the Northwest territory, and was secretely guarded and protected by several treaty obligations and acts of congress.

On this grant, so purchased, Mr. Stout moved his family into an old house erected on the premises and which is still standing, used and occupied by Mr. Smith, a colored man, for a mill. Mr. Stout continued to occupy it either by himself or his grantees peaceably and quietly up to the present time. A portion of it is still in the possession of the family in the person of Margaret C. Cauthorn.

At the time Mr. Stout purchased the property in 1805, the entire square, bounded on the southwest by Buntin street, the northeast by Perry, the northwest by First, and the southeast by Second, was vacant except the part occupied by him and the lot on the corner of Second and Perry streets occupied by the Lasselle tavern. The remainder of the square was entirely vacant and so remained for more than twenty-five years afterwords. Mr. Stout on part of his lot on First street erected a brick building for his printing office close to the frame building now occupied by Mr. Smith for his mill, which building was one hundred feet long and continued to occupy that building for his printing office for nearly forty years, and until November, 1846, when he sold the office to John R. Jones. Mr. Jones moved it to a building owned by the Wise family on Water street below Main street.

Leading Paper.

At the time of the sale The Sun was the leading Democratic paper in the southwest part of Indiana, and had a large and lucrative patronage. But Mr. Jones neglected the paper and became at once, like some men in our day, a standing candidate for every office in sight, and the paper went down and its publication was suspended.

There are many citizens yet living, among whom I will name Pierre Brouillette and Daniel Elliott, who will remember the first printing office on First street, and who among others came regularly every Saturday to get their papers which were delivered by the writer—(Henry Cauthorn.)

Mr. Stout erected for his family residence a large brick building on the corner of First and Buntin streets, which was destroyed by fire before it was finished or occupied. This disaster so impaired his finances that he was only able to build a very small building in its stead. This compelled him, on account of cramped quarters, to use the old frame building now standing and used by Mr. Smith as a mill, for sleeping apartments for the employees of the office. In this old building R. Y. Caddington, afterwards the founder of the Vincennes Gazette, John W. Osborne, John B. Dillon, one of the historians of Indiana, Chauncey W. Almy, Lambert Boyer and John B. DeLisle occupied sleeping quarters while they were employed in the Sun office. The writer of this article — Henry Cauthorn—occupied it for sleeping apartments from 1834 to 1840, while employed in the Sun office, until he entered St. Gabriel's college at Vincennes. The family of Elihu Stout from 1805 down to, and including Margaret Cauthorn, have been, and she is now, in peaceable possession of the old house and about ten feet on the northeast side thereof, now used by Smith for a mill, until the spring of 1903, when W. C. Bierhaus and J. W. Cook asserted some claim to a part thereof.

HOW VINCENNES LOOKED IN 1838 TOLD BY WRITER

Names of Old Stores and Business Houses Are Mentioned.

Vincennes as it appeared in 1838, or eight years after Abraham Lincoln passed through here, is described in an article reprinted from The Western Sun of Dec. 11, 1916, written by H. A. Foulks. It follows in part:

First, the ferry across the Wabash river at the foot of Main street was owned by James Gibson, who lives on the Illinois side. There was another ferry just above this, owned by Thomas C. Bailey.

On the corner of First, Water and Main streets, was the store of J. S. and W. J. Wise. On the other side was the store of Knight —and the other name I do not bring to mind, but which later o[ccu]pied the place as a wholesale grocery store.

The corner where the Department Store now stands was the J. C. Clark Hotel, (I think I see him now on the outside steps viewing Capt. Ford drilling his recruits for the Mexican war in 1846-47.) Across on the other corner was the William Burtch store. John B. Hannah and Joe Decker were clerks in this store.

W. J. Heberd had a store next and Morgan Jones was across the street, with J. W. Maddox adjacent. D. S. Bonner, or Bonner & Reynolds, was on the corner of Second and Main. John Caldwell had his store where the Second National Bank now stands. The Old Yellow Tavern was there —kept by Christian Graeter. Across the street was the Bayard grocery store, then the Center House, built, I think, by Hon. John Ewing. On the other corner was the Mayes & Kuykendall store. Other stores along Main street were N. Smith, hardware, and John Watson. At the corner of Fourth and Main where the E. Bierhaus Sons wholesale grocery store is now, was the residence of H. Brokaw—a two-story brick, with a stairway on the outside. This was afterwards sold or traded to J. W. Maddox, who lived in it until he died, and the property sold to Mr. Bierhaus. Mr. Brokaw moved to a frame building on the corner of Seventh and Busseron, where John Bierhaus now lives. I think this was built by Captain Bellwood, who lived there for some time, the house being later removed and now stands on Tenth street, occupied by Mrs. Piel.

Other residents on Main street were Coleman, Dr. Hitt, W. J. Hebard, D. S. Bonner, who afterwards built the Col. Allen house, and William Green. Mrs. Nicemonger had a long house plastered in French style. I think it stood about where the Presbyterian parsonage now is; then Dr. Rathbone had a mulberry grove on Main street between Sixth and Seventh streets, and cultivated silk worms.

On the corner of Seventh was the residence of William Hayes; on the east corner was a one-story yellow cabin of weather boarding. On the Planke corner James Scott built a brick house, afterward selling it to Greenhoiva, now owned by John Bierhaus, and more recently the DeJean boarding house, was where Mrs. Clark, widow of John C. Clark, resided. Her first husband was a Vanderburg. The old court house stood opposite.

Next the square between Broadway and Buntin was vacant for many years, except the south corner where Ben F. Thorn lived.

On the next square John Robertson lived. On the corner of Hart and Seventh, John G. Miller built a brick house, afterwards selling it to William Denny, I think. That was the last house on Seventh street.

ELISHA HUNTINGTON PROSECUTOR IN 1830

Elisha M. Huntington was prosecuting attorney when Abraham Lincoln came to Vincennes 100 years ago today.

Among the cases on docket then were. John Allen, charged with mischief; Lousia Redmon, "keep peace," Matthew McDonald, assault and battery; Absalom Shannon, assault and battery; Archibald Scott, assault and battery; John Burk, Esther Burk, Selena Burk, Amanda Burk and Louisa Burk, riot, and George Purley, assault and battery.

Francis

La Porte Ind. June 5/31.

Mr.Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Sir;

I received a letter yesterday post marked in Washington D.C. but the letter indicates that it is from Fort Wayne,Ind.,hence I am at a loss to know just where to direct the reply.

The letter states that you have just been informed that my father,Simeon Francis,has in his possession a complete file of the Sangamon County Journal.

My father died nearly eighteen years ago. He never had in his possession a single copy of the Sangamon County Journal. I cannot understand who would give you such information. My father's uncle Simeon Francis and his two brothers Josiah and Allen Francis printed the first copy of the Sangamon County Journal Nov.10th.1831. With three changes in name it is now the Illinois State Journal,being the oldest continued publication in the state of Illinois to day. They were all intimate friends of Lincolns for many years. I could give you a few items in regard to their friendship etc.,but you undoubtedly have more than I know of connection with Lincoln. Uncle Simeons first adventure in the newspaper business was the publication of the Republican Advocate,at New lundon,Conn. in 1817, This continued for ten years. I had a few volumes of the publication and presented a volume to the Illinois State Editors Assn,when they met last fall in Champaign Ills. I did this as Uncle Simeon was the oldest member elected to the Hall of Fame in the state.

These publications have no reference to Lincoln as he was practically an unknown quantity at that time.

We are all great admirers of Lincoln and I am sorry that it is impossible to send you copies of the Sangamon Journal. Would be glad to do so as I know that Lincoln wrote articles for this paper.

I would be very glad to know where you received your information in regard to the Journal.

Very truly yours

C. W. Francis

La Porte, Ind.

Springfield Estelle Francis

June 9, 1931
Dict. June 8

Mr. C. W. Francis
LaPorte, Indiana

My dear Mr. Francis:

It is difficult for me to account for the routing of the letter which I sent to you relative to copies of the Sangamon County Journal.

The letter was written at the suggestion of Dr. Stoltz of South Bend, who was my guest, and it is very likely that I misunderstood him as to who was in possession of the papers.

He was under the impression, however, that there was a complete file of the Journal at LaPorte, and I regret very much to learn that there is not.

It is a pleasure, however, to make your acquaintance in this way, and I trust that sometime while in LaPorte I may have an opportunity to see you personally.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

News paper Clippings

LINCOLN CLIPPED NEWSPAPER DATA

Two of His Pocket-Size Scrapbooks Found, Filled With Information

MOSTLY ABOUT SLAVERY

The Name "Lincoln"

The family name of Lincoln is derived from the town of the same name in England. It is a compound of "Lin" and "coln," signifying a "lake on a hill."

The first American progenitor of the Lincolns was Samuel Lincoln, who came to this country from England as an apprentice weaver in 1637. He settled at Hingham after completing his apprenticeship in Salem.

The name is not very common in Philadelphia. The telephone directory lists only 17 within the city, while the name is used in 41 business organizations.

Newspaper clippings were a part of the reference library of Abraham Lincoln.

The Great Emancipator collected newspaper clippings on slavery before he enunciated his famous document. He collected clippings of the addresses of his opponents in politics before he publicly answered them.

Two little brown scrap-books, pocket size, containing some of the clippings were recently discovered among papers collected for a biography and were placed in the custody of Henry T. Rainey, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

They cover a period of two years, beginning in 1856, and deal principally with the slavery issue.

What Lincoln Clipped

There are, however, other bits of miscellaneous information Lincoln clipped from time to time from the daily newspapers and cut out for future references. Among such items are:

A table of the solar system.
Distances between large cities.
Popular vote for President in 1844, 1848, 1852 and 1856.
Dimensions of American lakes.
Population of the world.
Coin and bullion in the United States.
Status of the "magnetic telegraph" in 1857.
Tables on emigration.
Bank statistics of 1858.
Mercantile insolvencies.
Progress of Christianity.
Real and personal estate in New York city in 1857.
Names of State Governors.
Population and wealth of the States.
War debts of Europe.
List of Presidents down to Buchanan.

Neat, Orderly

Lincoln's orderly habits of mind are attested not only by the neatness and care with which each clipping is fixed in the books, but also by a careful notation of the source, penned alongside each clipping.

The contents of the first book begin with Henry Clay's statement that the Constitution is "silent and passive" on slavery. Closely following is a reference to Daniel Webster's pledge in the debate on the Oregon bill in 1858 that "I shall consent to no extension of the area of slavery on this continent."

Following is a clipping designed to keep in mind the exact language of the second paragraph of the Constitution—"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created free and equal—"

Washington on Slavery

To bolster his contentions when he should meet Douglas in a final decisive debate, Lincoln preserved a clipping relating to George Washington's letter to Lafayette in 1798 in which he said, "I agree with you cordially in your views in regard to Negro slavery. I have long considered it a most serious evil both socially and politically, and I should rejoice in any feasible scheme to rid our States of such a burden."

On a nearby page is a clipping from Washington's letter in 1794 to Tobias Lee, then in England negotiating the sale of parts of Washington's landed estates, in which he said he was anxious to "rid myself of certain species of property which I possess very repugnantly to my own feeling."

In the second book, Lincoln attached a single newspaper paragraph cut from a report of one of the debates. It is the famous:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or the other."

Abraham Lincoln Said:

"It is not best to swap horses when crossing a stream."

"Wealth is a superfluity of what we don't need."

"When we can't remove an obstacle, plow around it."

"There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob rule."

"When you have written a wrathful letter, put it in the stove."

"Truth is generally the best vindication against slander."

"That this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

"Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them."

"Beware of rashness, but with energy and sleepless vigilance go forward and give us victories."

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 279 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA August 13, 1934

LINCOLN—PRODUCT OF THE PRESS

The press was the chief source of information which contributed to Abraham Lincoln's early grasp of public affairs. Throughout his life he was a constant reader of the newspaper, and it was the chief medium through which he learned the conclusions of changing public opinion.

He was first a reader of borrowed newspapers, then a subscriber to several different publications, later a contributor to one journal in particular, and eventually a publisher himself. Finally he became, as president of the nation, a true patron of the press.

READER

By the time Lincoln was old enough to take an interest in the contents of a newspaper there were several in circulation in the community where he lived. The *Western Sun* was published at Vincennes as early as 1819. The *Terre Haute Register* was available to Lincoln, as William Jones, for whom Lincoln clerked the last year in Indiana, was on the mailing list as early as 1825. The *Corydon Sentinel* and the *Louisville (Kentucky) Public Advertiser* were also circulated through the Lincoln community. By the time Lincoln left the Indiana country for Illinois he had a fine elementary training in citizenship gained through the medium of the newspaper.

One of Lincoln's contemporaries refers to Lincoln's great joy on being appointed postmaster at New Salem, Illinois, not because of the meager pecuniary benefits but because "He forsaw unlimited opportunity for reading newspapers."

One of his biographers states that "His education was almost entirely a newspaper one, he was one of the most thorough newspaper readers in America." This fact suggests that very early in life he began to subscribe for newspapers from different sections of the country.

SUBSCRIBER

Howell is the authority for the statement that "The first publication for which he (Lincoln) ever subscribed, was the *Louisville Journal* which he paid for when he could secure the intellectual luxury only at the expense of physical comfort."

The *Louisville Journal* was established in 1831 and edited by J. D. Prentice "a man for whose wit and repartee perhaps never had his superior among the editors of the United States," according to one biographer. It was originally a Whig paper, and supported the Union in the war between the states.

Lincoln, in correspondence with his friend, Samuel D. Marshall of Shawneetown, Illinois, in 1842, suggested that part of a fee be applied on a two-years' subscription to Marshall's paper. To Jacob Harding at Danville, Illinois, Lincoln wrote in 1855, "I have been reading your paper for three or four years and have paid you nothing for it." He enclosed ten dollars.

Lincoln and Herndon subscribed to the following newspapers:

New York Tribune
Chicago Press and Tribune
Western Citizen
Garrison's Liberator
Anti-Slavery Standard
National Era
Richmond Inquirer
Charleston Mercury
Southern Literary Messenger

One of these newspapers which came to Lincoln with regularity was the *Chicago Press and Tribune*, and the letter which follows must be a source of great satisfaction to the publishers of the *Chicago Tribune* today:

Springfield, June 15, 1859.

Press & Tribune Co.
Gentlemen:

Herewith is a little draft to pay for your Daily another year from to-day—I suppose I shall take the Press & Tribune so long as it, and I both live, unless I become unable to pay for it—In its devotion to our cause always, and to me personally last year, I owe it a debt of gratitude, which I fear I shall never be able to pay.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln.

CONTRIBUTOR

From the time Lincoln's first political announcement appeared in the *Illinois State Journal* in 1832 until he left for Washington in 1861, he contributed articles regularly to the publication. In fact the paper became known as "Lincoln's paper." As late as December 12, 1860, an editorial evidently from his pen appeared in the *Journal*.

One of his most important weapons during the debates with Douglas was a scrap book of newspaper clippings; and, after the debates were over, he used the newspaper reports of the debates as the text for the only book which he ever published. (See "The Different Editions of the Debates of Lincoln and Douglas," by R. Gerald McMurtry.)

Lincoln paid a very high compliment in one of his speeches in 1852 to the *National Intelligencer* which he said was "a paper that is not often misled and never intentionally misleads others."

He wrote many letters of appreciation to those who had been willing to publish his arguments, and he realized the value of the press as practically the only medium which opened a way to the masses whom he desired to reach.

PUBLISHER

A great many German families migrated to Illinois during the fifties, and a German paper, the *Illinois Staats-Anzeiger*, was published at Springfield by Theodore Canisius. Financial difficulties arose which allowed Lincoln to purchase controlling interest in the paper and the contract which he made with Canisius is on record. The introductory statement follows: "This instrument witnesseth that the Printing-press, German types &c purchased of John Burkhardt, belong to Abraham Lincoln; that Theodore Canissius is to have immediate possession of them, and is to commence publishing in Springfield, Illinois, a Republican newspaper." This endorsement in Lincoln's handwriting appears on one of the contracts: "May 30, 1859, Jacob Bunn, bought the press, types &c of John Burkhardt, for me, with my money. A. Lincoln." The contract stated that after the presidential election of 1860 the paper would become the property of Canisius if he abided by the contract.

PATRON

During the period between his nomination and his election Lincoln was especially interested in the reaction of the press towards his candidacy. On July 20, 1860, in the very heat of the presidential campaign Lincoln wrote a letter to Cassius M. Clay in which he used this introductory clause, "I see by the papers . . . " After his election and during his entire term as president, he was constantly in touch with the editors of the large city dailies.

In 1863 General Burnside suspended the printing of a Chicago paper. Lincoln wrote to a friend about the suspension, "I was embarrassed with the question between what was due to the military service on the one hand and the Liberty of the Press on the other." It is interesting to note that he revoked the order of suspension.

There were times, however, when Lincoln found it necessary to take severe measures with certain papers who "wickedly and traitorously printed and published" what in one instance he termed to be "a false and spurious proclamation purporting to be signed by the President" and he immediately ordered the arrest of the publishers,

1939

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The speaker was introduced by J. Emil Smith, editor of The State Journal.

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Mr. Shipton climaxed his review with the statement by Lincoln which appears each day in The State Journal: "The Journal paper was always my friend; and, of course, its editors the same."

That statement, Mr. Shipton said, was written hastily in the summer of 1864 on the back of an unimportant memorandum and remained buried in White House files for a long time.

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Mr. Shipton's address follows:

"One of the most cherished possessions of the Illinois State Historical library is the first volume of the Illinois State Journal—then the Sangamo Journal—cherished because it is the foundation of an unbroken file of the oldest newspaper of the state, and also because of a column of small type which most readers, unless forewarned, would skip unnoticed. That column, which appears in the issue of March 15, 1832, begins with the statement that the writer has concluded to offer himself for election to the next general assembly, and concludes:

"'I am young, and unknown to many of you. I was born, and have ever remained, in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relations or friends to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the independent voters of the country; and, if elected, they will have conferred a favor upon me for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But, if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined.'

"The signature is A. Lincoln.

Beginning Of Friendship.

"Thus early in their careers—for the one was but four months of age, the other a youth of 23 years—did the association between The Journal and Abraham Lincoln commence. The relationship, however, was to persist until severed by death.

"Two and a half years later, for example, one may find in the old files an inconspicuous notice to the effect that A. Lincoln (still residing in the nearby village of New Salem) had succeeded Dr. John Allen as the local agent of the Sangamo Journal. In the issue of June 18, 1836, appear five short paragraphs which constitute Lincoln's announcement of his candidacy for re-election to the legislature and the platform on which he offered himself. In the issue of April 15, 1837, is a notice to the effect that A. Lincoln (recently removed to Springfield) and John T. Stuart had formed a partnership for the practice of the law and could be found at all times at their office at No. 4, Hoffman's Row, upstairs. The issue of Feb. 3, 1838, carries Lincoln's first published speech, entitled, 'The Perpetuation of our Political Institutions.' (Incidentally, because some forgetful typesetter neglected to change the date from 1837 to 1838 for several weeks after the start of the new year, this speech, as it appears in Lincoln's published writings is dated one year too early.) A few months later The Journal informed subscribers that 'our bills for McLean county are made out, and settlement can be made with A. Lincoln, esq., who will be present at the next term of the circuit court in Bloomington, next week.'

"In fact, one may say without exaggeration that almost every significant step in Lincoln's career is recorded in The Journal. If, therefore, one attempted a complete chronicle, the result would approach a full length biography. Obviously, only a few pinnacles can be pointed out in a summary of this kind.

Missouri Compromise.

"Permit me to remind you that after serving four terms in the Illinois legislature, Lincoln was elected to the national house of representatives. His experience there was disappointing—his opposition to the Mexican war made him unpopular at home, and his failure to secure a first class appointive office at the end of his term led him to drop politics and devote himself to the law. For five years he gave only perfunctory attention to what had once been an absorbing interest. Then, to quote his own words, 'The repeal of the Missouri compromise aroused him a he had never been before,' and he threw himself into the campaign to balk the forces of slavery extension.

"In the Illinois Journal (the new name had been adopted in 1847) for Sept. 11, 1854 one may find an editorial which constitutes the first published evidence of Lincoln's political rebirth. Here Lincoln himself figures with John Calhoun, a

lomely parable which exposes a vulnerable spot in the Democratic position. The editorial is unsigned, but the argument is so peculiarly Lincoln's, and the style so characteristically his, that there can be no doubt of his authorship.

"After stating the fourteenth section of the Kansas-Nebraska law which repealed the Missouri compromise; and then put in a declaration that it was not intended by this repeal to legislate slavery in or exclude it from the territory, this editorial of Lincoln's goes on in these words:

"'The Missouri compromise excluded slavery from the Kansas-Nebraska territory. The repeal opened the territories to slavery. If there is any meaning to the declaration in the fourteenth section, that it does not mean to legislate slavery into the territories, (it), is this: That it does not require slaves to be sent there. The Kansas and Nebraska territories are now as open to slavery as Mississippi or Arkansas were when they were territories.'

"To illustrate the case—Abraham Lincoln has a fine meadow, containing beautiful springs of water, and well fenced, which John Calhoun had agreed with Abraham (originally owning the land in common) should be his, and the agreement had been consummated in the most solemn manner, regarded by both as sacred. John Calhoun, however, in the course of time, had become owner of an extensive herd of cattle—the prairie grass had become dried up and there was no convenient water to be had. John Calhoun then looks with a longing eye on Lincoln's meadow, and goes to it and throws down the fences, and exposes it to the ravages of his starving and famishing cattle. 'You rascal,' says Lincoln, 'what have you done? What do you do this for?' 'Oh I realize Calhoun to

tossing ball—a pastime frequently indulged in by the lawyers of that day, and had played a few games of billiards to keep down, as another has expressed it, 'the unnatural excitement that threatened to possess him.' When the telegram containing the result of the last ballot came in, although apparently calm and undisturbed, a close observer could have detected in the compressed lip and serious countenance evidences of deep and unusual emotion. As the balloting progressed he had gone to the office of The Journal and was sitting in a large armchair there when the news of his nomination came.'

"From mid-May, 1860, until February, 1861, the eyes of the nation were focused on Springfield—on Lincoln primarily, but with only less intensity on the Illinois State Journal. Although a crisis, years in the making, was fast reaching the breaking point, Lincoln, both as nominee and as president-elect, refused to make any public statement—partly, he said, for fear anything he might say would be misrepresented, and partly because his political principles were already fully on record. Observers therefore sought clues in the next most authoritative source—the editorial columns of what they recognized as his personal organ.

"Occasionally they were rewarded. On Dec. 12, 1860, for example, appeared a short editorial on the difficulties of including southerners on the new cabinet. Correspondents recognized it as Lincoln's own as readily and as surely as if it had borne his signature. More startling, however, and more momentous in its import, was the long editorial which appeared on Dec. 20—the day South Carolina passed her ordinance of secession, although news of that event had not yet reached Springfield. So forceful was this pronouncement

tachment. You will recall that something—historians do not yet know just what it was—came between Lincoln and Mary Todd, and that their engagement was broken on what Lincoln himself described as 'the fatal first of January, 1841.' More than a year of estrangement followed. Then Mrs. Simeon Francis took a hand. Sharing her husband's affection for Lincoln, and knowing him to be unhappy, she contrived to bring him and Mary Todd together at the Francis home and admonished them to be friends again. Other meetings followed and soon eventuated in the quiet marriage ceremony which took place on Nov. 4, 1842.

Lincoln's Gratefulness.

"Another incident which furnishes proof of the closeness of the friendship followed Lincoln's one term in congress. I have already mentioned the fact that at that time Lincoln failed to secure a government appointment that he wanted. The office was the commissionership of the general land office, which political necessities placed in the hands of a rival Whig. As a sort of consolation prize, however, the administration offered him the office of Oregon territory, and when he refused that, the governorship. This he also rejected, but at the same time he did his best to secure the secretaryship for Francis. Writing, on Sept. 27, 1849, to one of his Illinois friends at Washington, he said: 'I cannot but be grateful to you and all other friends who have interested themselves in having the governorship of Oregon offered to me; but on as much reflection as I have had time to give the subject, I cannot consent to accept it. . . . As to the secretaryship, I have already recommended our friend Simeon Francis, of The Journal.' On the same day he wrote to J. M. Clayton, secretary of state, as fol-

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"'Now would not the man who committed this outrage be deemed both a knave and a fool—a knave in removing the restrictive fence, which he had solemnly pledged himself to restrain—and fool in supposing that there could be one man found in the country to believe that he had not pulled down the fence for the purpose of opening the meadow for his cattle?'

Reply To Douglas.

"Three weeks later—on Oct. 4, 1854—Lincoln spoke at Springfield for more than three hours in reply to Douglas, who had made an elaborate defense of his Nebraska policy on the preceding day. On the sixteenth, Lincoln repeated his speech at Peoria. On the twenty-first The Journal published the first of seven daily installments of the complete text, furnished by the author. This is the address which Albert J. Beveridge, certainly the keenest student of Lincoln's political career, has described as Lincoln's 'first great speech.' It is a matter of some pride to those of us who are associated with the Illinois State Journal that this speech was first published in, and therefore preserved for posterity by, our paper.

Four years later The Journal performed a similar service. The occasion was the Republican state convention, held in Springfield on June 16, 1858. During the afternoon the convention passed by unanimous vote a resolution declaring 'that Abraham Lincoln is the first and only choice of the Republicans of Illinois for the U. S. senate.' That evening Lincoln accepted the nomination in a speech known ever afterward from the ringing opening statement that as a house divided against itself could not stand, so the government of the United States could not 'endure permanently half slave and half free.'

"William H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner and biographer, has told us that Lincoln wrote this speech on small scraps of paper which he finally assembled and copied on connected sheets. After delivering it, he turned over the manuscript to The Journal, and then, in order that it should appear exactly as he wished, read and corrected the proofs. As the speech appeared in the issue of June 18, 1858, it was composed of exceedingly short paragraphs (many of one sentence only), and was heavily italicized for emphasis. The editors of Lincoln's writing reset it in orthodox paragraphs and eliminated the italics, with the result that until three years ago, when the first accurate reprint was issued, the student who wished to get Lincoln's exact meaning, and to know with just what emphasis and inflection he spoke on that historic occasion, had to consult the text in the old files of The Journal.

Sequels To Speech.

"The immediate sequel to this speech is well known, for it led directly to the famous series of debates with Douglas. A later sequel—Lincoln's nomination for the presidency—is also well known, but only the closest students of Lincoln's life are familiar with the fact that news of that momentous event came to him in the office of the Illinois State Journal. William H. Herndon tells the story:

"'The news of his nomination found Lincoln at Springfield in the office of The Journal. Naturally enough he was nervous, restless, and laboring under more or less tossing ball—a pastime frequently indulged in by the lawyers of that day, and had played a few games of billiards to keep down, as another has expressed it, 'the unnatural excitement that threatened to possess him.' When the telegram containing the result of the last ballot came in, although apparently calm and undisturbed, a close observer could have detected in the compressed lip and serious countenance evidences of deep and unusual emotion. As the balloting progressed he had gone to the office of The Journal and was sitting in a large armchair there when the news of his nomination came.'

"From mid-May, 1860, until February, 1861, the eyes of the nation were focused on Springfield—on Lincoln primarily, but with only less intensity on the Illinois State Journal. Although a crisis, years in the making, was fast reaching the breaking point, Lincoln, both as nominee and as president-elect, refused to make any public statement—partly, he said, for fear anything he might say would be misrepresented, and partly because his political principles were already fully on record. Observers therefore sought clues in the next most authoritative source—the editorial columns of what they recognized as his personal organ.

"Occasionally they were rewarded. On Dec. 12, 1860, for example, appeared a short editorial on the difficulties of including southerners on the new cabinet. Correspondents recognized it as Lincoln's own as readily and as surely as if it had borne his signature. More startling, however, and more momentous in its import, was the long editorial which appeared on Dec. 20—the day South Carolina passed her ordinance of secession, although news of that event had not yet reached Springfield. So forceful was this pronouncement that it deserves brief quotation.

Forceful Editorial.

"'There are not a few who seem to think,' wrote the editor, 'that the union will be dissolved when the South Carolina secession convention passes a resolution to that effect. The union cannot be dissolved by the passage of resolutions. South Carolina may resolve that she is no longer a part of this union. She may hold secession meetings, mount disunion cockades, plant palmetto trees, make palmetto flags, trample under foot the glorious flag of our country and proclaim from the housetops her treason and her shame, but all this will not dissolve the union. She may compel her citizens to resign official place held under the federal government, she may close her courts and postoffices, and put her own people to a great deal of inconvenience and trouble, but she will still be in the union, unmolested. She cannot get out of this union until she conquers this government. The revenues must and will be collected at her ports, and any resistance on her part will lead to war . . . The laws of the United States must be executed—the president has no discretionary power on the subject—his duty is emphatically pronounced in the constitution. Mr. Lincoln will perform that duty. Disunion, by armed force, is treason, and treason must and will be put down at all hazards.'

"This, wrote the ablest of the metropolitan correspondents stationed in Springfield, Henry Villard of the New York Herald, was a 'stunner.' Then he repeated what he had said several times in recent weeks and what his colleagues had also declared: 'As to its authoritativeness, it will only be necessary to repeat that The Journal is edited by a nephew of the president-elect, and published under his very eyes; facts which render it highly improbable that sentiments disapproved by Mr. Lincoln should be reflected by it.' The nephew referred to was Edward L. Baker, who married a niece of Mrs. Lincoln.

Close Relationship.

One final bond between The Journal and Lincoln before the latter left Springfield forever remains to be mentioned. Shortly before his departure the president-elect took the manuscript of his inaugural address to The Journal office, swore a trusted compositor to secrecy, and had it put into type and a few proofs pulled so that it might be in shape to hand to the party leaders whose advice he wanted. Thus it was that one of the greatest American state papers first took printed form in the composing room of a small newspaper in central Illinois.

"It is natural, of course, that a close, enduring connection should exist between a leading politician and a leading party organ. In Lincoln's case, however, the association went far beyond mutual advantage, for friendship strengthened and supplemented political ties.

"The guiding spirit of The Journal for a quarter of a century was Simeon Francis, one of the two brothers from Wethersfield, Conn., who founded the paper. Tradition has it that Lincoln, contemplating a political career in the frontier village of New Salem was so strongly attracted by Francis' editorials that he walked twenty miles to Springfield to make the acquaintance of the editor. Whether that be true or not, it is a fact that the two men became friends at an early date and remained friends throughout life. 'Francis,' said Herndon, 'was warmly attached to Lincoln . . . and entertained great admiration for Lincoln's brains and noble qualities. The esteem was mutual . . .'

"Lincoln's marriage offers an ... tachment. You will recall that something—historians do not yet know just what it was—came between Lincoln and Mary Todd, and that their engagement was broken on what Lincoln himself described as 'the fatal first of January, 1841.' More than a year of estrangement followed. Then Mrs Simeon Francis took a hand. Sharing her husband's affection for Lincoln, and knowing him to be unhappy, she contrived to bring him and Mary Todd together at the Francis home and admonished them to be friends again. Other meetings followed and soon eventuated in the quiet marriage ceremony which took place on Nov. 4, 1842.

Lincoln's Gratefulness.

"Another incident which furnishes proof of the closeness of the friendship followed Lincoln's one term in congress. I have already mentioned the fact that at that time Lincoln failed to secure a government appointment that he wanted. The office was the commissionership of the general land office, which political necessities placed in the hands of a rival Whig. As a sort of consolation prize, however, the administration offered him the office of Oregon territory, and when he refused that, the governorship. This he also rejected, but at the same time he did his best to secure the secretaryship for Francis. Writing, on Sept. 27, 1849, to one of his Illinois friends at Washington, he said: 'I cannot but be grateful to you and all other friends who have interested themselves in having the governorship of Oregon offered to me; but on as much reflection as I have had time to give the subject, I cannot consent to accept it. . . . As to the secretaryship, I have already recommended our friend Simeon Francis, of The Journal.' On the same day he wrote to J. M Clayton, secretary of state, as follows: 'Your letter of the 17 inst., saying you had received no answer to yours informing me of my appointment as secretary of Oregon, is received, and surprises me very much. I received that letter, accompanied by the commission, in due course of mail, and answered it two days after, declining the office, and warmly recommending Simeon Francis for it. I have also written you several letters since alluding to the same matter. . . .'

"Of the same approximate date is a letter of introduction to Thomas Corwin which is self-explanatory:

"'This will introduce to your acquaintance my friend, Simeon Francis, editor of the Illinois Journal. He will desire an interview with the new secretary of the interior, with whom I am not acquainted. I shall be greatly obliged if you will procure him a favorable introduction to that gentleman, and show him any other attention which the press of your duties will permit. Your Obedient Servant, A Lincoln.'

"In 1855, Francis and his brother sold The Journal to W. H. Bailhache and Edward L. Baker, publishers of the Alton Telegraph. For a time Francis remained in Springfield, but the lure of the west was strong. The year 1859 found him in Portland, Ore., where he became the first editor of the Daily Oregonian. When the Civil war broke out Lincoln appointed him paymaster with the rank of major, and in that capacity he served throughout the war.

"One day in the spring of 1865 Francis had gone to Fort Yam on official duty. On returning to Salem he saw a flagstaff on a distant hill, and noticed that the flag flew at half mast. Chill premonition gripped him. A short distance farther along the road he saw another half masted flag. 'Mr. Lincoln is dead,' he said to his driver. Weeks later he wrote to a friend: 'The death of my old friend is most dreadful to me. Time passes—but the dead Lincoln is always before me . . . A funereal gloom has been over the country since, and over my heart and the hearts of those about me. May God control the terrible event for the good of our nation.'

Frequent Visitor At Office.

"As far as Lincoln was concerned, the retirement of the Francis brothers from The Journal did not place the paper in the hands of strangers. Edward L. Baker, the new editor, though twenty years his junior, was a son of a lawyer whom Lincoln had met in many courts. He was also a man of fine education, having graduated from Shurtleff and Harvard, and was a member of the bar himself. Under the new management, Lincoln continued to frequent the office of The Journal as he had for many years in the past. 'He was a frequent visitor at The Journal office,' wrote J. D. Roper, who later became one of the publishers of the paper, 'always greeting every one with a pleasant word. Sometimes he had with him his two small boys, who would often slip out into the work room, just back of the editorial room; when Mr. Lincoln would find that the boys had gone,

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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EARLY NEWSPAPERS LINCOLN READ

A campaign biography which Abraham Lincoln annotated left without correction this statement about his earliest newspaper subscription: "The first publication for which he ever subscribed was the *Louisville Journal* which he paid for when he could secure the intellectual luxury only at the expense of physical comfort." This sacrificial attitude recalls an interesting bookplate which portrays a child in the nude reaching up into some library shelves and on the bookplate this quotation is inscribed, "and afterwards some clothes."

The *Journal* was edited by J. D. Prentice who was noted for his wit and repartee. It was originally a Whig paper which is likely the reason why Lincoln subscribed for it.

Apparently Lincoln first came in contact with newspapers while still a growing boy in Spencer County, Indiana. How early he began to read these sources of general information we do not know, but long before he had the inclination to read, newspapers were available in many homes in the community.

We know that William Jones living near Gentry's Store as early as 1825 was receiving the Terre Haute *Register*, as his name appears on the subscription list of the paper for that year. Lincoln was then sixteen years old and possibly this was one of the first papers he ever read with any consistency. J. W. Osborn, the publisher, carried at the masthead of the paper this slogan, "No dupe to party, tool, or power, no slave to minions of an hour." The editor of the paper, when it was established in 1823, was a Mr. Jones but his relationship to William Jones, if any, is not known.

Lamon says that Lincoln was "an eager reader of newspapers whenever he could get them, and Mr. Jones carefully put into his hands the kind he thought a raw youth should have." There can be no doubt but that the paper for which Jones subscribed was regularly made available to Lincoln who is said to have worked in a store for or with Mr. Jones.

One of the newspapers with a wide circulation which we are very sure Lincoln read over a period of years was the *Western Sun* published at Vincennes, Indiana. During 1825 and 1826 there were seventeen speeches of Henry Clay appearing in its columns. This is undoubtedly another paper taken by William Jones who was a great admirer of Clay, and we may feel sure Lincoln had access to it. On the migration of the Lincolns from Indiana to Illinois in 1830 Abraham is said to have visited the office of the *Western Sun* and observed the press printing this paper which was familiar to him.

The *Sangamo Journal* which later became the *Illinois State Journal* might be called Lincoln's favorite newspaper. While living at New Salem he was the paper's agent there. Upon moving to Springfield he became a regular contributor to its columns and the sheet became known as Lincoln's paper. No publication was read by him with more interest and for a longer period of years.

The Illinois paper which may have contributed more to Lincoln's political advancement than any other was the Chicago *Press and Tribune*. In a letter written June 15, 1859, he acknowledged the service this paper had rendered and stated he would probably take the paper "as long as it and I both live."

Lincoln undoubtedly subscribed for many country newspaper in Illinois during his active political life. Two which he is known to have received by reason of subscription paid were the Paris *Prairie Beacon*, for which he sent Jacob Hardin the subscription price, and the Shawneetown paper for which he reimbursed his friend Samuel D. Marshall.

A biographer stated that "Mr. Lincoln's education was almost entirely a newspaper one," and then made this comment: "He was one of the most thorough newspaper readers in America and for fifteen years before his election to the Presidency subscribed regularly to the Richmond *Enquirer* and the Charleston *Mercury*."

Those who have left reminiscences about Abraham Lincoln's legal career state that he was noted for preparing arguments on both sides of a case, so that often the opponent's argument would be fully anticipated by Lincoln. Evidently he was anxious to keep in touch with the attitude of the far south on the slavery question and so subscribed to the Charleston *Mercury*.

Lincoln's loyalty to the Whig cause is well known, and the Whigs were especially strong in the South. During his term in Congress he associated with a group of Whigs who called themselves the Young Indians, and they were all from the South except one. This interest in the southern Whigs may have begun with his residence in Washington in 1847, 1848, and 1849, and the Richmond *Enquirer* was a welcome sheet in his home from that time.

It is not known generally that Lincoln was once the owner of a newspaper. It was published in Springfield, Illinois, by Theodore Canisius and was called the *Staats-Anzeiger*. It was a political news sheet especially prepared in the interest of the Republican party for the German population. It was acquired by Lincoln in May 1859 and did good service during the political campaign of 1860.

One paper received in the Lincoln home in which Mrs. Lincoln would find unusual interest was the Lexington *Observer*. The Lincolns were visited in the White House by Dr. L. B. Todd of Lexington, Kentucky, and Lincoln is said to have made this request of him: "Doctor, I wish you would see that the Lexington papers are sent here to the White House. The *Observer* has been coming to our home ever since Mary and I were married and I reckon there's no better weathercock for Kentucky politics just now."

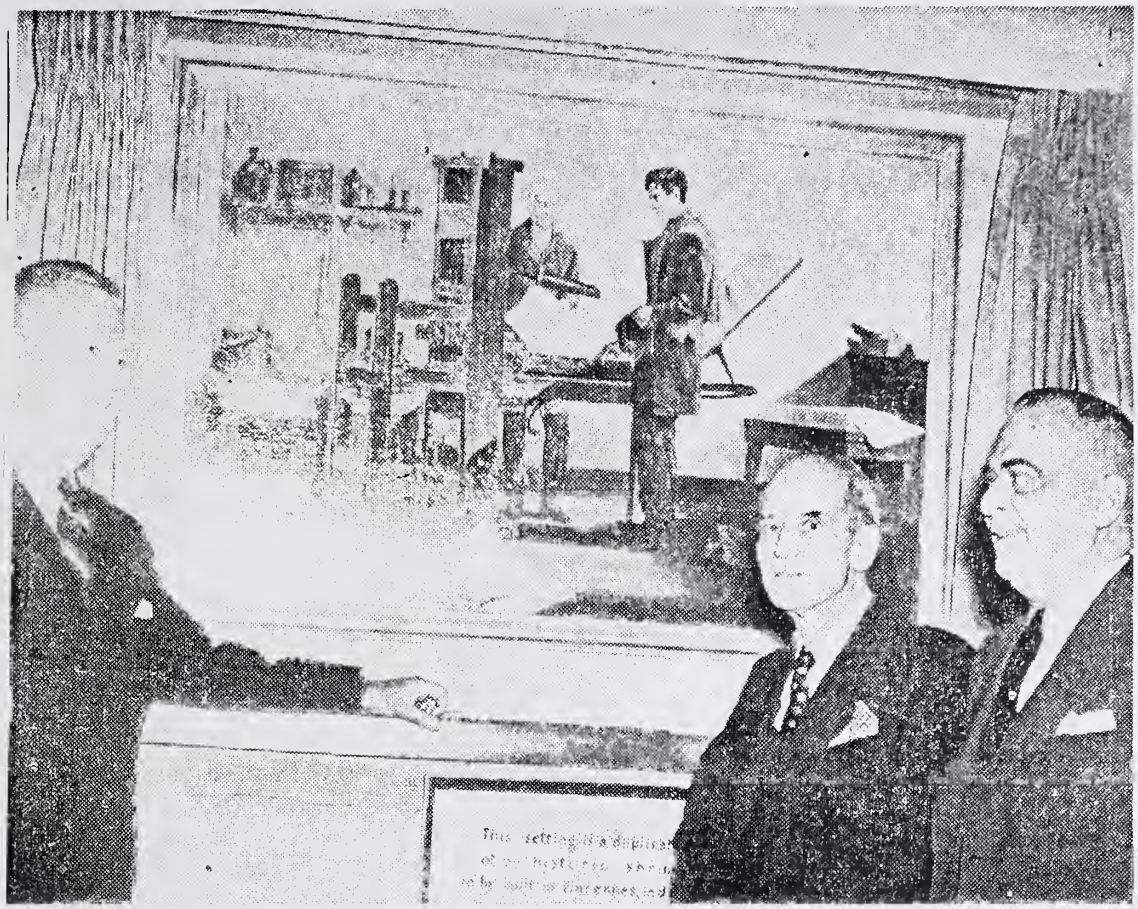
Here are a few papers which Lincoln apparently received regularly at longer or shorter intervals preceding his election to the Presidency: *Anti-Slavery Standard*, Charleston *Mercury*, *Congressional Globe*, Chicago *Press and Tribune*, *Garrison's Liberator*, *Illinois State Register*, *Illinois Staats-Anzeiger*, *Kentucky Observer*, *Louisville Journal*, *National Era*, *National Intelligencer*, *Niles Weekly Register*, *Paris Prairie Beacon*, Richmond *Enquirer*, *Sangamo Journal*, *Southern Literary Messenger*, Terre Haute *Register*, *Western Citizen*, *Western Sun*.

The above list is not an attempt to compile those papers that he often read or any which he may have received after his nomination to the Presidency. To a large extent, however, they influenced his political philosophy and became the most exhaustive source of information which he stored away. It is no exaggeration to say that Lincoln was largely educated by the newspapers.

Lincoln wrote a letter to his friend E. B. Washburne on April 30, 1848, which might well have been the source of one of Will Rogers' familiar sayings. Lincoln commented, "Nothing else new, beyond what you see in the papers." Apparently he was still a close reader of the papers at this period in his life.

See Lincoln Lore No. 279.

Vincennes Will Receive Historic Lincoln Painting Unveiled At Philadelphia Festival



Governor James H. Duff (left) of Pennsylvania unveils a painting by Albert T. Reid (center) depicting young Abe Lincoln visiting the newspaper office of the old Western Sun in Vincennies, Ind. The painting, showing an exact replica of the Ramage press used then, will he given to Vincennes for a Lincoln shrine. Shown in Philadelphia yesterday with Governor Duff and Reid is Mayor Bernard Samuel of Philadelphia. (AP Wirephoto.)

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 13 (AP)—Pennsylvania's Governor James H. Duff pulled back a curtain today and Philadelphians saw for the first time a painting depicting Abraham Lincoln's introduction to the printing press at Vincennes, Ind., in 1830.

The ceremony, which drew hundreds of spectators to the large court of the John Wanamaker store, was held in connection with observance of Pennsylvania Week which began today.

AT DUFF'S SIDE for the unveiling was the artist, Albert T. Reid of New York, elderly former newspaper publisher and cartoonist who drew the pencil sketch of the painting some 20 years ago for a magazine.

The painting, "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators," along with the Ramage Press which Reid used for the model in his painting, will go to Vincennes for a Lincoln shrine.

The press, found by Reid in the print shop of Edward Smith in Reading, Pa., is in working condition and Duff rolled off several newspapers after the unveiling ceremonies.

REID SAID he had used three different men as models for Lincoln when he painted the picture. The first two were called into service during the war, he said.

The press was built in Philadelphia about 1815 and is one of the few exact replicas of the press young Lincoln saw in the old Western Sun office in Vincennes when his family stopped there for repairs to their wagons. The Vincennes press never has been found.

The Wanamaker store bought the press from Smith for Reid to use in his painting and now will give it to Vincennes.

Tuesday, October 14, 1947

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

Congressional Record
February 12, 1951

Lincoln and the Press

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. M. G. BURNSIDE
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 12, 1951

Mr. BURNSIDE. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I am including an article appearing in the Washington Post, Washington, D. C., on February 11, 1951:

HIS GENERALS WERE LESS PATIENT—LINCOLN ENDURED A RABID PRESS

(By J. R. Wiggins)

The appearance of this thoughtful book is well-timed. Its Civil War examples of newspaper behavior in a time of unparalleled crisis are instructive to newspapermen again struggling with the difficult problems of a national emergency. Its story of military and civil government reactions to newspaper policies is equally valuable reading for officials who have to deal with a free press in wartime.

The instruction in both cases consists often of examples of what to avoid.

The Civil War President, for the most part, exhibited an amazing patience and restraint in dealing with a dissident press that was shockingly irresponsible in its criticism as well as with newspapers of all political faiths that seemed to have no security consciousness whatever.

Military commanders, on the other hand, proceeded against editors in a manner that was often summary and arbitrary, although the provocation was sometimes very great.

Would we, in the midst of armed rebellion, with military operations in the heart of the country, preserve as well the freedom of the press, countenance as patiently the most violent criticism, endure as calmly real hardships resulting from the luxury of individual freedom? For all the bad spots in the Civil War record that Harper relates, it is a sobering question.

Mr. Harper's great contribution is not in divulging the new and novel facts about Lincoln's relationship with the press. Although he has unearthed some things new to this reviewer, it is the orderly arrangement of information hitherto available only in a dispersed form that makes this book valuable.

Lincoln's relationships with newspaper editors were very close, as this study makes clear. He understood the press. He knew how to use it. He did not hesitate to put his own writing into the press. He tried to influence others. He had a realistic and practical notion of newspaper propaganda.

The list of newspapermen Lincoln appointed to Federal office is a very long one. It reflects Lincoln's wide acquaintanceship among newspapermen and it reveals the active political role of most editors of the day. Greeley, of course, is the outstanding example of the politician-editor. Another is Henry J. Raymond, editor of the New York Times, who was chairman of the platform committee in the convention that gave Lincoln his second nomination.

The Civil War government made some bad mistakes in its press relations, however. W. H. Russell of the London Times was denied an Army pass and virtually driven from the country for a fair and objective story of Bull Run that was too accurate for administration comfort.

Dennis A. Mahony, editor of the Herald at Dubuque, Iowa, was seized by a Federal marshal, in the dead of night, and whisked away to prison in Washington, without charge.

C. C. Fulton, editor of the Baltimore American, only newspaper friend of the administration in Baltimore, was jailed in Fort McHenry for a schedule he sent the Associated Press, heralding the peninsular campaign as a great success just when it was bogging down.

General Burnside seized the Chicago Times because it favored slavery and released it only on President Lincoln's order.

Editor Wharton, proadministration owner of the Parkersburg Gazette, criticized the condition of the troops of Gen. David Hunter, in an editorial. He was jailed, his newspaper was seized and offending copies burned, his office was ransacked and all its records destroyed at Hunter's direction.

A forged AP dispatch caused President Lincoln to order the arrest of the editors of the New York Journal of Commerce and the World and the suppression of the papers. These actions were reconsidered when the culprit was found.

The military, in hundreds of cases, proceeded summarily against newspapers. No distinction was made, in many instances, between expression of opinion and reports of the news. Giving comfort to the enemy, in many cases, consisted of giving him the comfort of agreeing with him.

The situation was bad enough so that former President Franklin Pierce was moved to say, "Even here in the loyal States, the mailed hand of military usurpation strikes down the liberties of the people, and its foot tramples on a desecrated Constitution."

On the other hand, Samuel Medary continued his attacks on the Government throughout the war, up until his death, relatively unmolested. Newspaper attacks on Lincoln reached incredible violence just before his renomination. Not only the Copperhead press but newspapers hitherto friendly to Lincoln assailed him in the most savage terms.

Censorship of news dispatches filed in Washington was one of the most controversial press issues of the Civil War period. It began in April, 1861, and was badly handled, directly by the Treasury, the War Department, State Department, and then War Department again. Finally it resulted in Congressional inquiry.

The House Judiciary Committee, on March 20, 1862, resolved that "the Government shall not interfere with the free transmission of intelligence by telegraph, when the same will not aid the enemy in his military or naval operations, or give him information concerning such operations on the part of the Government."

The House agreed and gave its support to the principle of unobstructed military news in wartime, notwithstanding the fact that hostile troops were not far away across the Potomac.

Harper tells the story of the press and the Gettysburg Address most interestingly. He cites the Chicago Times' "diswatery utterances," editorial and others. He also points out, however, that the address was widely published (because of its very brevity), and that it was recognized at the time by the Springfield Republican, the Ohio State Journal and others as a great document.

THE NEW YORK HERALD of Sunday, April 16, 1865, after Lincoln's assassination, made the inevitable charge: "It is as clear as day that the real origin of this miserable act is to be found in the fiendish and malignant spirit developed and fostered by the rebel press, North and South. That press has, in the most devilish manner, urged men to the commission of this very deed."

This certainly was not the sober judgment of the country. It indicates, however, the violence and malevolence of the newspaper criticisms that Lincoln endured. That he submitted to it rather than impair rights he highly prized and well understood is not the least of his claims to greatness and to the gratitude of subsequent generations of Americans.

No press could be more irresponsible or partisan than some of the Civil War sheets. No threat to the Nation could be more immediate and direct. Somehow or other, a free press and a free country both survived. It was a feat of statesmanship pregnant with interest in a day when it seems equally difficult to defend freedom without abandoning it.

FEATURES

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From a painting by James M. Sessions

Abraham Lincoln, on one of his frequent visits to the Tribune office, with Joseph Medill (standing) and Dr. Charles A. Ray.

Joseph Medill of The Chicago Tribune

One Hundred Years Ago Next Saturday He Became Part Owner of a Struggling Newspaper and Spent 44 Years Making It Great; He Died in 1899, but His Influence Lives On

By Charles Collins

JOSEPH MEDILL'S association with The Chicago Tribune as an editor and publisher began on June 18, 1855. Therefore, this year is his centennial in the history of this newspaper and the annals of Chicago. It brings an anniversary that calls for commemoration.

But for Medill's fortitude of spirit during catastrophes of war and peace and his determination to perpetuate a newspaper dedicated to the best interests of the nation, the Tribune Tower might not have lifted its Gothic pinnacles toward the stars. He had no hand in its planning, but his influence vibrates there whenever the presses are rolling.

When he came to Chicago, its population was about 80,000. He was then a young but seasoned journalist who had won his spurs in Ohio. His purpose in coming here was firmly fixed and swiftly executed. He had decided to invest his funds, talent, and ambition in a newspaper that would oppose slavery, fight for the freedom of the individual in every aspect of American life, and promote the growth and welfare of the middle west.

At that time, The Tribune was in its eighth year of a struggle for existence under frequent changes of management. It had a meager circulation of 1,400 daily and 1,000 weekly. To its development toward prestige and power he devoted the rest of his life, nearly 44 years.

When he died on March 16, 1899, aged 76, he was given national recognition as a giant of the press. Writers for rival newspapers assigned him a place of high honor in the Valhalla of their profession.

Medill's indomitable spirit has survived as an inspiration of the dynamic expansion of The Tribune in the 20th century. Its flowering into editions of nearly a million daily and more than a million Sunday came under the leadership of his grandson, Col. Robert R. McCormick. At the age of 18, he had stood by his grandfather's bedside and heard his last words, "What is the news today?" Twelve years later he became the heir of Medill's torch and advanced it to a higher flaming.

Joseph Medill entered the saga of Chicago's destiny when he was 32 years old and already had established a reputation for political sagacity. He had contributed importantly to the creation of the Republican party; today's historians name him among its 12 founders. He had established a newspaper in Ohio, the Cleveland Leader, which flourished for 70 years after he relinquished its control.

He came here with letters of introduction from Horace Greeley, founder of the New York Tribune, renowned as an anti-slavery propagandist. He was the kind of young man to whom Greeley had issued his much-quoted advice, "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country." This remark of Greeley's first appeared in print in 1850.

He was 32 years old, married, and father of two infant daughters. In figure he was tall, slender, and lithe. His face was smooth shaven, and he did not begin to neglect the razor until the Civil war brought in the fashion for full beards.

A portrait of Medill in the spring of 1855 reveals a prepossessing countenance, rather grim around the mouth, in which seriousness of mind and firmness of purpose are striking characteristics. It is a face which suggests the strong Ulster breed, the Scotch-Irish of northern Ireland, where his father and mother were born.

His hair, rather long and brushed back over a broad and high forehead, was reddish. His nose was emphatic and aquiline. He wore a white *(Continued on Page 50)*

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Lincoln and Medill--a Winning Team!

Tribune Editor Played Major Role in Abe's First Presidential Nomination

(Continued from Page 27)

standing collar, a black stock neatly tied, a black broadcloth jacket.

This picture, originally perhaps a daguerreotype, records him as a well-groomed but austere gentleman of the press with no bent toward the traditional bohemianism of newspaper life.

He bought one-third of The Tribune and became its business manager and associate editor. Dr. Charles H. Ray, a scholarly journalist from Galena and another protégé of Greeley's, bought one-fourth and became editor-in-chief.

Timothy Wright, a Chicago merchant, bought the remainder as a silent partner.

Medill and Ray promptly established themselves in the Tribune's office and printing shop, occupying space in the Evans block, a three-story brick building on Clark street near Randolph, opposite the Sherman house.

There, after a few issues had been printed, Medill met a casual visitor, new to him in name and reputation, who happened to be an incarnation of the American destiny: a lawyer and politician of Springfield who identified himself as Abraham Lincoln, known downstate as Old Abe.

The story of that meeting often has been told in print. In short, Lincoln had called to pay for a year's subscription, saying: "I like your paper. I didn't like it before you boys took hold of it. It was too much of a Know-Nothing sheet." (The Know-Nothings were an offshoot of the dying Whig party, prejudiced against European immigration.)

Then the gawky, uncouth attorney questioned the crisp young editor about the new party he had been promoting in Ohio under the name "Republican." Recalling the incident in his twilight years, Medill told an interviewer:

"From that day until his death, I enjoyed a peculiar and close intimacy with Mr. Lincoln."

The friendship thus begun was a decisive factor in Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency by the Republican party in 1860. Medill was the first journalist to promote him as a Presidential prospect. He was the tactician who turned the tide in his favor at the convention. He and his colleagues of the Tribune staff covered the entire northwest with persuasive campaign literature.

Conferences between Lincoln, Medill, and Dr. Ray in the Tribune office became frequent. They have provided anti-Tribune writers of this generation with an anecdote which quotes Medill as having said to his visitor in a moment of irritation:

"Take your ——— feet off my desk, Abe!"

This bit of mythological humor is supposed to expose Medill's incorrigible arrogance and readiness to insult friend or foe. The envious Cascas of the competing press love the tale and frequently hug it into their compositions opropos des bottes.

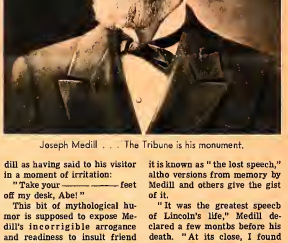
Paul M. Angle, secretary of the Chicago Historical society, a Lincoln expert of high degree, says that he could not guarantee to find its origin in a year's search for credible evidence. "It probably was started by some village cynic in a cracker barrel argument," Mr. Angle states. "I distrust all Lincoln anecdotes in which he is addressed as Abe."

Lincoln became Medill's favorite candidate for President less than a year after their first meeting. In May, 1856, the Republicans of Illinois held their first state convention in Bloomington, and Lincoln attended the session as an unconverted observer.

When the slate of candidates had been chosen, he was invited to make a speech. He stampeded the meeting with a denunciation of the expansion of slavery into new territories.

Medill became so excited that he failed as a reporter; he stopped taking notes, and therefore no exact record of Lincoln's extempore challenge to the southern Democrats exists. So it is known as "the lost speech," altho versions from memory by Medill and others give the gist of it.

"It was the greatest speech of Lincoln's life," Medill declared a few months before his death. "At its close, I found myself standing on a table, shouting and yelling like one possessed. Other reporters there were similarly stirred."



Joseph Medill . . . The Tribune is his monument.

Medill's apprenticeship for his career in Chicago was served in northeastern Ohio, then known as the Western Reserve. His parents were farmer folk in Stark county, he first smelled printer's ink in the towns of New Philadelphia and Coshocton, where he learned the printer's craft as well as the editor's. Here is his own account of his early experience.

"I was a compositor, reporter, city editor, managing editor, commercial editor, job printer, solicitor, pressman, advertising man, and even a 'devil,' as we called the boy who inks the rollers. I have done everything around a printing and publishing shop but work a foot press.

"I can't say that I ever did anything startling. The fact is, I was not that kind of reporter. I was a plain, steady-going sort of chap, and my best hold was on descriptive writing."

His education was gained in country schools and an academy at Massillon, and was supplemented by his own reading. A prosperous Quaker in Canton gave him the privilege of borrowing from a well-stocked private library which represented contemporary tastes in English and American literature.

His father intended to send him to college, for which he prepared with private Latin lessons from a clergyman in Canton, but a destructive fire on the family farm blighted that hope. He went to work on a newspaper instead, and also began to study law in the office of a Canton attorney.

He was admitted to the bar and began to practice law in 1847, the year The Chicago Tribune was founded. But, in 1849, he abandoned this profession and bought a weekly newspaper in Coshocton, which he renamed the Republican. He later said of this turn in his destiny:

"The law lingered for a while to claim the recusant, but he had tasted Franklin's nectar and he never returned."

Benjamin Franklin was his favorite character in American history. He gave to Chicago the Franklin statue that stands in Lincoln park. In an address there to the Old-Time Printers' association in 1896, he said:

"Who has added more to the store of human knowledge than Franklin? Who has done more for human liberty, or for the sons of toil, in rendering the lives of the common people happier or their lot more endurable, than Benjamin Franklin?"

In differences of opinion that did not involve compromise with his fundamental principles, he could forgive and forget, or admit his own errors, with ease and dignity. When Lincoln said to him harshly, "Medill, you are acting like a coward," because he asked for relaxation of conscription in 1863, he did not sulk under the rebuke. He accepted Lincoln's demand for 6,000 more Illinois soldiers, altho he felt that Chicago was being hed white. (Out of a population of 167,000, Chicago sent 32,000 men to the front, and there was mourning for the slain in almost every home.)

When John J. Finerty, Irish-American journalist, Civil war veteran, and former Tribune reporter, was running for po-

TODAY'S COVER

• The painting reproduced on the cover of today's Magazine is based on a photograf made in the spring of 1855, the year Joseph Medill became part owner of The Chicago Tribune. The artist is Joseph Parrish of the Tribune staff.

litical office, Medill's editorials were in opposition. Finerty answered them with a stroke of Irish humor, saying:

"His name in the Ould Country was MacDe'il, and the blood of Ould Nick runs in him till this day."

When this remark was repeated to "MacDe'il," he laughed heartily and stopped sniping at Finerty.

His lifelong attitude toward attempts to influence the Tribune's treatment of news is revealed in the autobiography of Frank A. Vanderlip, a New York banker who had been a Tribune reporter and financial

"HOW CAN I REMEMBER *WHO* MY FIRST DATE WAS?"

writer from 1889 to 1894. Forty years after Medill's death, Vanderlip wrote:

"In my heart I am now and always have been a newspaper man. Old Joseph Medill helped to make me one on an occasion when I was inclined to feel scared. Marshall Field, the greatest merchant and most prodigal advertiser in Chicago, had let it be known that he was put out by the way I was dealing with financial news. He had come to headquarters with his kick, and I was sent for.

"I had traded greetings with Mr. Medill only once or twice before this occasion. Treating me with nice dignity, he explained that Mr. Field was objecting to something I had written. As I listened to Mr. Field's complaint, I was well aware that he was no ordinary person. Then I expressed my viewpoint, gratefully aware that the dim-eyed old man behind the desk was listening to me as judicially as he had listened to Marshall Field.

"I salute him across the years. If he had truckled then, even a little, all his power would have too, had that been necessary to make us greater."

His sense of hearing began to fade in middle age, and, in his gray-bearded period, he often used an ear trumpet in conferences. Members of his staff learned, however, that when heretical remarks were uttered in his vicinity he was likely to overhear them and answer them with caustic retorts.

When dealing with a chronic bore, he would put aside his trumpet and give an impression of total deafness to end the argument.

He was elected a member of the Illinois Constitutional assembly in 1869. He was appointed to the first board of civil service commissioners by President Grant in 1871. After the Chicago fire, when he had been working from 16 to 18 hours a day for a solid month, he was drafted as the Republican candidate for mayor. When elected by an overwhelming majority, he was called "The Fireproof Mayor," because he immediately reformed the fire department and caused legislation that prevented rebuilding with inflammable frame structures.

On the second day of the fire, which had destroyed the Tribune's building and equipment, Medill addressed the panic-stricken citizenry in an issue of the paper printed in an extemporized plant on the west side. His editorial said in its opening passage:

"In the midst of a calamity without parallel in the world's history, looking upon the ashes of 30 years' accumulations, the people of this once beautiful city have resolved that,

"*Chicago Shall Rise Again.*"

The Voice of the Phoenix was speaking. The people harkened, and believed what they heard because it also explained why and how Chicago would rise triumphantly from its seared and shattered rubble.

It was the voice of an uncongenerable man, speaking with characteristic common sense for his fellow citizens.

JUMBLE ...THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

NERVIA

SALICO

LOSTIN

SLEWVI

UBBURS

EXTIRUM

Copyright: 1955: By The Chicago Tribune

Unscramble the 6 sets of letters, making a word of each jumble. Print each word, a letter to a square, beneath each jumble. The letters you have printed on the *circled* squares may then be arranged to spell the *surprise answer* suggested by the cartoon. What is it?

(Answer appears on Page 53)

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Sea AND Ski TANNING CREAM

GUARANTEE: Your money refunded if you do not find Sea & Ski better in every way than any other suntan product or sunburn remedy.

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DEEP HEAT

Relief from pain of

Arthritis, Rheumatism

● Just massage now Deep Heat Mentholatum Rub on the spot that's sore. See how it's "taken up" by your skin. In just 30 seconds you'll *feel a flush of warmth and pleasing glow right at the point that hurts.* Almost immediately pressure is relieved.

You must feel relief deep down—feel arthritis, rheumatic pain disappear—or Mentholatum will refund every penny you paid plus postage.

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Sold World-wide in Dept., Drug Stores, and Beauty Shops.

TOTE-BRUSH, INC., Chicago 14, Ill.

1959

ABE LINCOLN VISITED INDIANA'S FIRST PRINTER, ELIHU STOUT, IN VINCENNES

INDIANA TEACHER

FEBRUARY 1959

C [redacted]

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
February 10, 1959

'Lincoln Was Reader of Courier-Journal'

ON MARCH 18, 1920, this newspaper published on its editorial page a little article entitled: "LINCOLN Was Reader of COURIER-JOURNAL." The text began:

> LINCOLN was an appreciative reader of THE COURIER-JOURNAL. This fact is brought out by TALCOTT WILLIAMS in an article, "Lincoln the Reader," in the *American Review of Reviews*.
>
> "The humor of his own day he (LINCOLN) read avidly," writes Mr. WILLIAMS. "He began with PRENTICE's pungent paragraphs in the Louisville COURIER-JOURNAL, the paper he took even when he could not afford one". . . .

This item must have seemed pretty harmless to everybody who bothered to read it, and probably most of these assumed it was accurate. But it is recorded that HENRY WATTERSON, then in retirement, exploded with considerable indignation.

WATTERSON almost worshipped LINCOLN and had been devoted to GEORGE D. PRENTICE. (A testimonial in marble of this devotion is still to be seen on the lawn of the Louisville Free Public Library.) But the truth, of course, was that LINCOLN, neither as man or boy, ever saw THE COURIER-JOURNAL, and it vexed WATTERSON mightily to see historical error perpetrated on the editorial page which had for so long been his own.

The next day a polite editorial paragraph pointed out that the *Review of Reviews* article had been mistaken. Undoubtedly the same thing was pointed out privately and in more forcible language to whatever unfortunate, in misguided zeal and pride, had thought the article suitable for reprint and had captioned it so boastfully.

WATTERSON and WALTER N. HALDEMAN joined forces to found THE COURIER-JOURNAL in 1868—three years after LINCOLN's death. *The Journal* was the famous member of the consolidation, having been made so by PRENTICE, and actually it was the first newspaper to which LINCOLN subscribed.

LINCOLN's fondness for *The Journal* has been described in an address by WILLIAM H. TOWNSEND, Lexington lawyer and scholar, excerpts from which were published in last Sunday's COURIER-JOURNAL. This fondness had its origin not mainly in PRENTICE's humor, though that was sharp and sometimes rough, but in the fact that both LINCOLN and PRENTICE were ardent followers of HENRY CLAY.

These facts have really never been secret, but it's a pity they had escaped the old *Review of Reviews* as well as somebody on our staff in 1920. WATTERSON thought so, anyway.

The Independent
Turtle Creek, Pa.
February 11, 1959

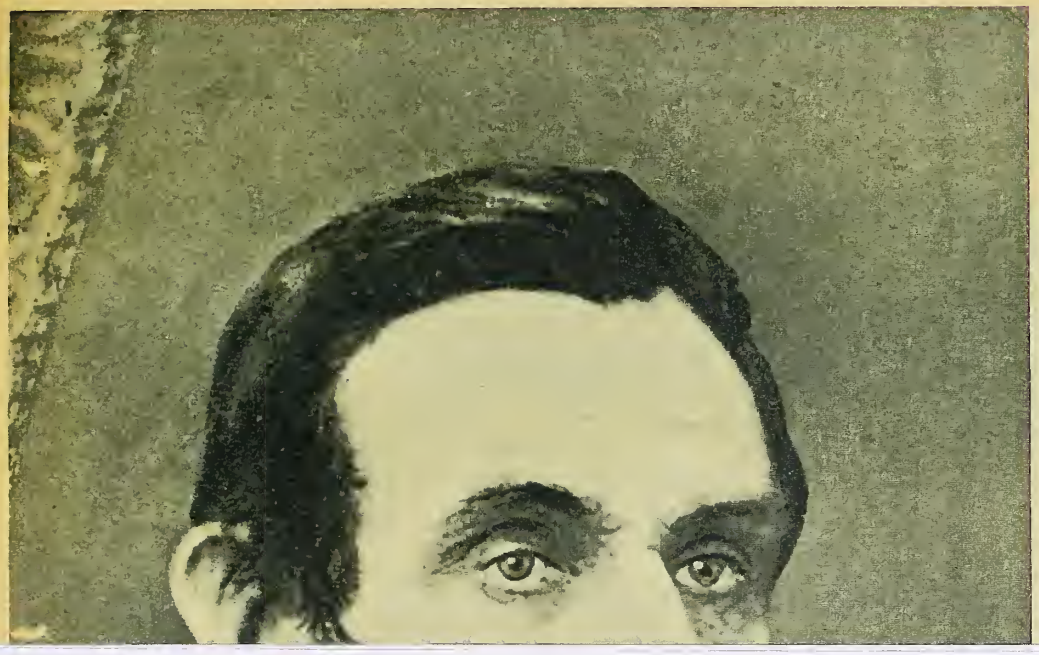
A Message From Lincoln

Throughout his life, Abraham Lincoln was a great reader of newspapers. He depended on them to keep him informed of the news and of public opinoin. He read newspapers from all parts of the country. In 1848, in a report to Congress, he favored having postmasters take newspaper subscriptions.

Our American way of life, he said, "can be best sustained by the diffusion of knowledge and the due encouragement of a universal national spirit of inquiry and discussion of public events through the medium of the public press."

Today, when the news is more than ever important to you, Abraham Lincoln's example is more than ever important. The best informed your are—by reading your newspaper regularly—the better citizen you are.

On the eve of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, may we all be inspired anew with the shining example of his courage, vision and integrity. From the humblest beginnings to the highest office within the gift of the nation, Lincoln in his own life epitomized both the unlimited opportunities and noble responsibilities that bespeak the finest ideals of American citizenship.



The of a President —1860

On the Glory Road to the White House,

This is President-elect Abraham Lincoln as he appeared in February, 1861, a month before his farewell speech to his Springfield friends.

The of a President —1860

On the Glory Road to the White House, Lincoln's Campaigns Were Covered by a Reporter Who Was Reluctant to Acknowledge His Greatness

By Thomas Millstead

HE HAD NOT planned a speech on that cold, crisp winter morning. For each of the hundred or more of his townsmen who shook his hand, Abraham Lincoln had only a brief, personal word.

Yet emotions too strong to remain unspoken overwhelmed him as he climbed aboard the train at Springfield on Feb. 11, 1861. Ahead lay Washington and the Presidency. Here remained home, friends, the whole familiar texture of his life.

Lincoln lifted a hand. The crowd fell silent. The tall, gaunt man spoke and there were tears in the eyes of his listeners. For of all his speeches, this was the most personal, the most revealing. He spoke not as a partisan politician, but as a man filled full with private griefs and forebodings.

Only one newspaper man was there to describe it. Only one reporter to see to it that Lincoln's poignant, words were set down exactly as he uttered them.

This reporter, Henry Villard, was 25 years old, not yet a citizen and had only mastered the English language a few years before.

And, in one of history's great ironies, he was a journalist with an abiding distaste for Abraham Lincoln.

Villard and Lincoln seemed fated by background and personality to clash. Villard, a studious and intense firebrand, was an immigrant from Germany who took his politics in deadly earnest: The subject was not to be bantered about.

And so the whole American political frontier tradition—which Lincoln embodied—of tall story and earthy jest, was alien to Villard.

He was there! Henry Villard, Lincoln's reluctant admirer.

And as for his appearance: "There was nothing in favor of Lincoln."

Villard noted critically the "lean, lank, indescribably gawky figure," the "odd featured, wrinkled, inexpressive, and altogether uncomely face."

Stationed in Springfield from the election of 1860 until Lincoln's journey east, Villard was the sole newsman to report the President-elect's daily words and actions. Villard would go on to become one of the best known Civil war correspondents. Later he would be a dominating figure in the world of finance.

But he was only a journalistic cub when he first met Lincoln in 1858, during the Rail Splitter's unsuccessful race for the United States Senate.

Making

From a painting by Ira Barnett, courtesy John Morrell and company.

"No one . . . can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting," Lincoln tells the throng at the Springfield station.

The young reporter tackled the job with enthusiasm dampened by some disapproval. He was not impressed by the "singularly awkward, almost absurd up-and-down and side-wise movement" Lincoln employed while orating. "His voice was naturally good but he frequently raised it to an unnatural pitch."

But their paths kept crossing. Lincoln had spoken at Petersburg in Menard county. He was driven to the railroad station in a buggy and left there alone. Villard was already waiting for the train to Springfield.

A sudden thunderstorm sent the two scurrying into an empty freight car standing on a side track.

Lincoln confided that as a country store clerk his highest political ambition was the state legislature. Now, he said, referring to the Senate campaign, "my friends have gotten me into this business." With one of his "peculiar laughs" he said he told himself every day that the Senate seat was "too big a thing for you; you will never get it."

"But," he went on, his wife "insists that I am going to be a senator—and President of the United States, too."

"Just think," Lincoln roared with mirth, "of me as President!"

Two years later, at the Republican national convention in Chicago, the prospect was not so unlikely. Villard was on hand, and thumping for William H. Seward. He felt "intense chagrin" when, on the third ballot, Lincoln was named party standard bearer.

But, as a good newsman, Villard kept his dispatches free of this private opinion. After Lincoln won the election, Villard—assigned to Springfield by the New York Herald and reporting, thru it, for the entire membership of the Associated Press—did a thoro job of covering his man.

And, day by day, a fuller, richer image of Abraham Lincoln emerged thru Villard's well written articles.

The President-elect, Villard noted, showed remarkable tact in dealing with his daily stream of callers "whether they were rough-looking Sangamon county farmers still addressing him as 'Abe,' sleek commercial travelers, staid merchants, sharp politicians, preachers, lawyers. . . ." Lincoln demonstrated a "very quick and shrewd perception of and adaptation to individual characteristics and peculiarities."

Even a grudging appreciation of the backwoodsman's humor began appearing.

Anecdotes which could still offend the proper young moralist, did not blind him to Lincoln's "other side"—his "deep earnestness, his anxious contemplation of public affairs, and his thoro sense of the extraordinary responsibilities that were coming to him. . . . I dare say that there are dormant qualities in 'Old Abe' which occasion will draw forth. . . ."

So it was a mellower—if still unconverted—Henry Villard who watched the President-elect board the train at Springfield for the trip to Washington. And after Lincoln's few words, Villard's reportorial instincts told him he had witnessed a great, touching moment in American history. He urged Lincoln to jot down the speech while it was still fresh in his mind. Lincoln complied, and Villard sent the text over the telegraph to his paper.

Villard rode on to Washington with the Presidential party, rubbing shoulders with the notables of the day. This was fast traveling for an immigrant who'd docked at New York at the age of 18, alone, almost broke, knowing not a word of English.

First for the New York Herald, then the New York Tribune, he covered the Civil war from Shiloh to the bombardment of the Charleston forts to the Battle of the Wilderness. Generals curried his favor; politicians sought his counsel.

And Lincoln did not forget the industrious young scrivener. Villard was one of the journalists to whom the White House door was always open.

After the war, Villard skyrocketed into the dizzy whirl of high finance. Because of his acquaintance with the famous and his knowledge of national affairs, a group of German bondholders asked him to look after their interests in the United States. With this wedge, Villard pried open a place for himself among the titans of that era. Western railroads were his prime interest. He became president of the Northern Pacific and ramrodded the completion of that line. Later, he founded Edison General Electric and became owner of the New York Evening Post and Nation.

But probably none of these achievements could match the service he rendered on that day in 1861, when he was instrumental in recording the exact words of a man standing on a train platform in Illinois:

"My friends, no one not in my situation can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, to the kindness of these people, I owe everything; here I have been a quarter of a century and have passed from a young man to an old man. Here my children have been born and one is buried. I now leave not knowing when or whether I ever may return, to a task before me greater than that which rested on Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him I cannot succeed, with this assistance I cannot fail. Trusting to Him who can go with me and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care, I am commending you, as I hope, in your prayers you will commend me. I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Illinois State Journal
Springfield, Illinois
June 27, 1964

Our Masthead Story

Lincoln And The Journal

AN ANNOYED reader has taken us to task, and properly so, for failing to take note of the centennial anniversary on June 18 of a written comment by Abraham Lincoln which appears every day on our editorial page masthead.

It reads simply as follows:

"The Journal paper was always my friend and of course, its editors the same."

A. Lincoln
June 18, 1864.

The origin of the quotation which undoubtedly has aroused the curiosity of many Journal readers over the years, was traced with the usual able cooperation of the staff of the Illinois Historical Library.

The library informed us that the hand - written tribute by the Civil War president was discovered on a page of an apparently routine office memorandum which was taken from White House files of Lincoln following his death.

The memorandum had been written by Lincoln, apparently in a response to the award of government printing business in the fiscal year of 1864-65. A library staffer noted that many newspapers in that era shared in government printing and that the Lincoln memorandum was presumably in answer to a query by someone concerning an allotment to the Journal.

Further details cannot be pinpointed because only one page of the original memorandum survives. It was believed addressed to the U.S. government printing office.

Lincoln in a first sentence of the memorandum had written: "If there is any special reason why it (the Journal) should not have a share of the advertising I do not know it."

Then came the simple, so typically Lincoln declarative sentence, which is part of our masthead and of which we have always been so proud.

The original copy of the page of the memorandum in Lincoln's handwriting is part of the Mclellan collection of Lincoln material at Brown University.

Paul M. Angle, noted Lincoln student and writer and currently president of the Chicago Historical Society, summed up the significance of the brief statement as reflecting Lincoln's feeling for the Journal, in a speech at the Sangamon County courthouse in November, 1931, at a program commemorating the centennial anniversary of the founding of the newspaper.

Said Angle on that occasion:

"Written, June 18, 1864, just 10 months before his death, this statement can be taken as Lincoln's final appraisal of a long and intimate relationship."

A succession of editors have concurred in this belief and the simple quotation has for many years reminded succeeding generations of readers that it was in the pages of the Journal that many of Lincoln's first speeches as a young candidate for the legislature were printed.

Historians have found his own special contributions to our pages revealing insights into the mind of a brilliant young man who was to become one of mankind's greatest figures.

NEWSPAPER MAP OF INDIANA TO 1824

L.M.L.

The "Times"

Times.

Abraham Lincoln called the Times "the most powerful thing in the world, except perhaps, the Mississippi." Its power was not in circulation, but in its influence on men's minds. In the Crimean war, Sir William Russell, Times correspondent, exposed the horrible conditions under which British soldiers were living and fighting, and forced reforms.

In the "big" war, Lord Northcliffe used the Times to warn his country against its mistakes. He was burned in effigy, but served his country.

The best known Times correspondent, who called himself Henri de Blowitz, learned in advance about the treaty of Berlin in 1878, and published it in the Times on the day it was signed. Mr. De Blowitz was an uncle of the distinguished American cartoonist, F. B. Opper, and his real name was Opper. He changed it to Blowitz, name of a small village in which he was born. When J. D. Bourchier, Times Balkan correspondent, died, Bulgaria issued memorial stamps in his honor.

Charles A. Dana wondered why there was "no great correspondent in Washington, D. C." Such a correspondent would have plenty to write about, now.

The Times keeps no accredited correspondent in Russia. That is conservatism.

Future Of Gazette Staked On Lincoln

The publisher of the Central Illinois Gazette, a forerunner of The News-Gazette, staked his own and his newspaper's future on the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

On the eve of the voting, Dr. J. W. Scroggs, the early Champaign County publisher, wrote in an editorial:

"I may as well say we won't get out another Gazette until Abe Lincoln is elected president since I plan to hold tomorrow's (Tuesday's) paper until this result can be announced."

Dr. Scrogs, action was not surprising to those who followed the political scene.

In April 1859 he was the first to suggest his good friend, Honest Abe, for the high post.

This, too, was a risk. Many papers in the state and practically all of them on the Eastern Seaboard, were either lukewarm or downright antagonistic to the rough-hewn Lincoln. He had, they felt, little to recommend him except a knack for telling appropriate humorous stories, an ingrained honesty, and some success at law. Legislative material, perhaps, but not presidential timber.

Likely Scroggs was in a better position to judge Lincoln than most.

He had visited frequently with the candidate during his semi-annual visits to Urbana. Usually Lincoln spent a week at a time here in the pursuit of his law practice and Dr. Scroggs often was among the friends who called at 304 E. Main, a place Lincoln frequently used as his local residence.

"A couple of years ago he (Mr. Lincoln) spoke at the Fairgrounds in Urbana," Dr. Scroggs wrote, "and it was then I first believed he was the man we needed in Washington.

"Everything he has said and done since then has increased my confidence in him as the one man who can cement our country. He represents all the ideals of love, freedom, and opposition to slavery.

"No man in the West at the present time occupies a more enviable position before the people or stands a better chance of obtaining a high position among those to whose guidance our Ship of State is to be entrusted. With Lincoln in the White House and Leonard Swett of Bloomington as our governor, we will be assured of fine government.

"For those who say he is too honest to be a politician I can only reply: He has shown himself a statesman, with elevated, far - seeing views of all the great questions of the day. He is altogether too much absorbed in his duties and too good a citizen to sully his character by mixing with intrigue or the mercantile transactions of American political warfare. His record is a clear and shining one.

"Is he capable? In answer to this we present tse plain unvarnished truth; here is a man who, without early advantages, without early education, without money or friends, without any assistance, by the inherent strength of his character and an unflinching purpose and clear and powerful mind, has fought his way single-handed from one of the humblest walks of life to the front rank of the Illinois bar.

"He is a prominent statesman, a lawyer of high standing, and in all things one of the foremost men of our day.

"His enemies search in vain for sufficient grounds for any type of accusation. Even his most bitter political opponents admit that he is honest to a fault."

The period between election eve and the counting of the votes was a trying one for both Dr. Scroggs and other friends of Lincoln here, including T. R. Webber, county clerk, and Judge Joseph Cunningham.

Mr. Webber was another who never wavered in his respect and admiration for Lincoln, a respect further strengthened by his many court dealings with the candidate. Judge Cunningham had long been a trusted intimate of Lincoln.

For them there was no turning back if Mr. Lincoln was defeated. Their faith in the Great Emancipator paid off.

Register Was First In 1858 To Report Lincoln's Candidacy

Over a century ago, it was the Sandusky Register that first told of the possibility of Abraham Lincoln being a candidate for president on the Republican ticket.

William R. Van Aken, a Cleveland attorney and student of Lincoln-lore, who has specialized in research into the Great Emancipator's life, spoke before the Sandusky Rotary Club Thursday noon at Hotel Rieger to tell of the little known "scoop" in the Sandusky newspaper.

"On Nov. 9, 1858, the Sandusky Register carried a dispatch from one of its reporters that a political meeting in Mansfield had endorsed Lincoln for the Presidency.

"On Nov. 19, this item was repeated in the Illinois State Journal at Springfield," Van Aken said.

Van Aken's talk, "Abraham Lincoln in Ohio," told of numerous visits of the Civil War president to Ohio and interests in the Buckeye State.

Van Aken's study of Lincoln's life in Ohio covered Lincoln's first case before a Cincinnati court, his campaign tours into the state and finally his funeral train's slow trip from Washington back to Illinois.

Oren Follett, prominent Sanduskian of the Lincoln era, founder of the Follett Publishing Co. of Columbus, and later owner of the Ohio State Journal, figured in Lincoln's life.

Follett, Foster and Co., in 1859 published 50,000 copies of Lincoln's speeches and debates and circulated them nationally. "This had a great effect on Lincoln's political fortunes in the East as the speeches showed him to be a man of great stature and understanding," Van Aken said.

When the great civil War commenced, Ohio took a prominent part, with nearly 400,000 Ohioans serving in the Army and other Ohioans paying $65,000,000 in taxes to support the war.

Ohioans, Salmon P. Chase and Edwin Stanton served in President Lincoln's cabinet.

"However, Ohio was not without its problems for Lincoln," Van Aken emphasized.

"Several newspapers expressed pacifist sympathies or openly admitted that the dissolution of the Union was inevitable.

"Even the pro-Lincoln Ohio State Journal in a series of editorials in November, 1860, advocated secession and also the expulsion of South Carolina.

"Lincoln's final contact with Ohio was in death. The sad story of the funeral train moving slowly westward . . . is the story of the outpouring of sympathy from the hearts of a stunned and saddened people who felt so deeply the loss of their leader.

"While Lincoln had never lived in the Buckeye State, its people took him into their hearts and cherished him as one of their own."

Van Aken is a member of Cleveland Rotary and brought his talk to the club in the centennial year observance of the Civil War and near the Feb. 12 birth date Lincoln.

State Journal Endorsed Policy Of Whigs in '39

The Journal was instrumental in calling the Vandalia convention which met in 1839, at which resolutions were adopted outlining the policies of the Illinois Whigs. Abraham Lincoln attended this convention. It pledged the Whigs of this state to "unitedly and zealously support for president the man who may be presented by the Whig and Conservative parties as the opposing candidate of Martin Van Buren."

Lincoln headed a committee which was appointed to draft an address to the people "setting forth the cause of our opposition to the present administration and recommending all the opponents of the misrule of the government to unite upon the common platform of union and compromise."

Concerning the convention the editor of The Journal said:

"Unite and secure success. And we hope all true Whigs will unite with us in sustaining the recommendation of the meeting at Vandalia. We recommended the call for that meeting; and we abide its decision."

State Journal Was Lincoln's Personal Paper

Frank J. Heinl of Jacksonville prepared some years ago an interesting historical review of the newspapers and periodicals circulating in the Lincoln-Douglas country in 1831 and 1832. The data for this was secured from the charge account book of the postmaster at Jacksonville. The period was the first year of the Sangamon Journal's existence, and the record indicates that it had only eight subscribers in Jacksonville. It is listed by Mr. Heinl as the "personal organ of Abraham Lincoln."

At that period Jacksonville was a town of vastly more importance than Springfield. It was the largest town in Illinois, and was already regarded as a coming center of education and a candidate for the state capital. It is interesting to note that religious publications led in the number of readers. The newspapers of Louisville, Ky., aggregated thirty-five subscriptions. Springfield was second. Of the nine Illinois papers then circulating in Jacksonville, The Journal is the sole survivor.

Springfield State Register

With great and full means on both sides, I will venture the Daily Register has shown before its readers more of the Locofoco speeches in a month, than all the Whig papers of the district, have done of Whig speeches for the session.

Sangamo Journal June 22 1848

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